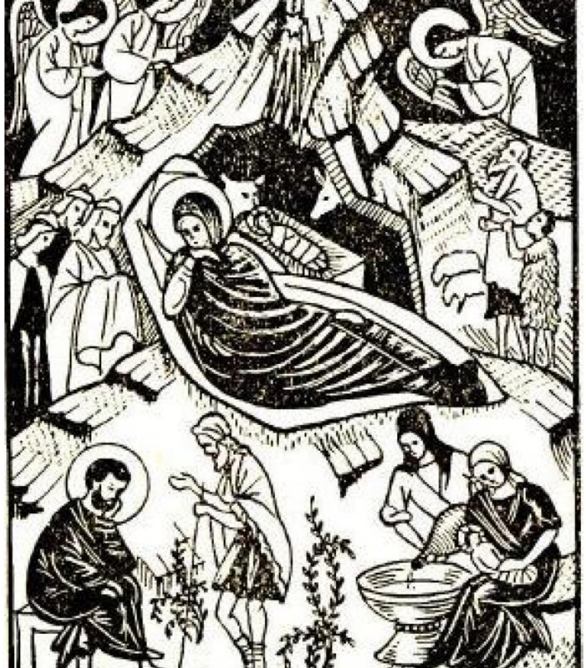
# The Order of Great Compline and Matins for the Feast of the NATIVITY of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

***(All-night Vigil)***



In the tradition of the Byzantine Rite, the night-time vigil for the feast of the Nativity consists of :

- the service of Great Compline
- the litija procession, with prayers for the world
- the service of Matins, with the Gospel of the Nativity, and the Great Doxology which begins with the words of the angels, announcing the birth of our Lord and Savior in Bethlehem: “Glory to God in the highest!”

This booklet provides that portion of the service which was printed by Father William Levkulic in 1969, bearing the title “Christ is born – Glorify Him.” The texts used by Father Levkulic have been updated where necessary to bring them into conformity with translations officially promulgated for the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh. The music has been prepared by the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, following the standard established by the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission. An adapted version of Matins is added to this book to include a more complete version of the vigil.

Until such time as the full vigil of Christmas is officially promulgated for use in our churches, we hope that this booklet will serve as a useful replacement for Monsignor Levkulic's service book.

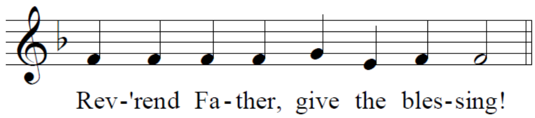
The icon image on the cover is taken from the Roman edition of the Ruthenian *Časoslov* (1950).

# *Great Compline*

*The Celebrant, vested in bright epitrachilion and phelonion, incenses the Holy Table, Icon Screen, the whole church, and the people. The deacon precedes him with a lighted candle. The Celebrant then stands before the Holy Doors, holding the censer. The deacon stands to his right and says:*

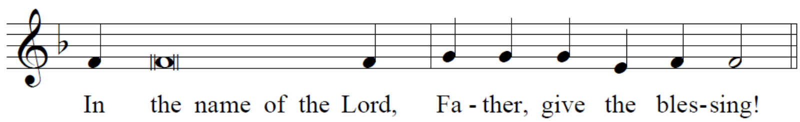
**Deacon:** Give the command!.

**People:**




*or if there is no deacon:*

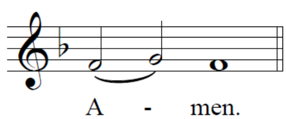
**People:**




*While making the sign of the cross with the censer, the celebrant says:*

**Celebrant:** Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**




Come let us worship our King and God.
Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.
  Come, let us worship and bow down before the only Lord Jesus Christ,
  the King and ***our*** God.

*Then the people chant the psalms of Great Compline. (Three of the six appointed psalms are given here). The psalms may be chanted antiphonally - that is, one side of the church taking the first verse, and the other side of the church the next verse, and so on. The deacon returns to the altar.*

## Psalm 4

*Joyful confidence in the Lord*

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
  from anguish you released me, have mercy ***and*** hear me!
O men, how long will your hearts be closed,
  will you love what is futile and seek what ***is*** false?

It is the Lord who grants favors to those whom he loves;
  the Lord hears me whenever ***I*** call him.
Fear him; do not sin: ponder on your bed and be still.
  Make justice your sacrifice, and trust in ***the*** Lord.

"What can bring us happiness?" many say.
  We have been signed, O Lord, with the light of ***your*** face.
You have put into my heart a greater joy
  than they have from abundance of wheat, wine, ***and*** oil.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once
  for you alone, Lord, make me dwell ***in*** safety.

## Psalm 6

*Prayer in times of trial*

Lord, do not reprove me in your anger;
  punish me not in ***your*** rage.
Have mercy on me, Lord, I have no strength;
  Lord, heal me, my body is racked;
  my soul is racked ***with*** pain.

But you, O Lord, how long?
  Return, Lord, rescue ***my*** soul.
Save me, O Lord, in your merciful love;
  for in death no one remembers you;
  from the grave, who can give ***you*** praise?

I am exhausted with my groaning;
  every night I drench my pillow with tears;
  I bedew my bed ***with*** weeping.
My eye wastes away with grief;
  I have grown old surrounded by ***my*** foes.

Leave me, all you who do evil;
  for the Lord has heard ***my*** weeping.
The Lord has heard my plea;
  The Lord will accept ***my*** prayer.

All my foes will retire in confusion,
  foiled and suddenly ***con***founded.

## Psalm 12

*Prayer of a sorrowful man*

How long, O Lord, will you forget me?
  How long will you hide ***your*** face?
How long must I bear grief in my soul,
  this sorrow in my heart day ***and*** night?

How long shall my enemy prevail?
  Look at me, answer me, Lord ***my*** God!
Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death,
  lest my enemy say: "I have overcome him";
  lest my foes rejoice to see ***my*** fall.

As for me, I trust in your merciful love.
  Let my heart rejoice in your sav***ing*** help:
Let me sing to the Lord for his goodness to me,
  singing psalms to the name of the Lord, the ***Most*** High.
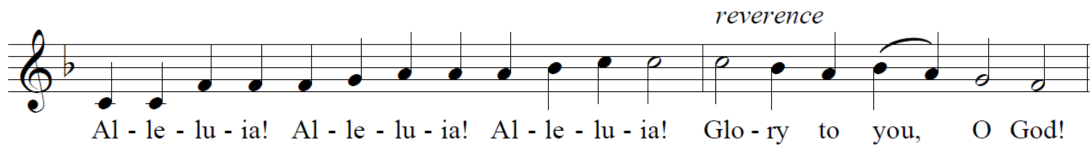
*And again:*
Look at me, answer me, Lord my God!
  Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death,
  lest my enemy say: "I have o***ver***come him."

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
  Now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
  Glory to you, ***O*** God! *(reverence)*
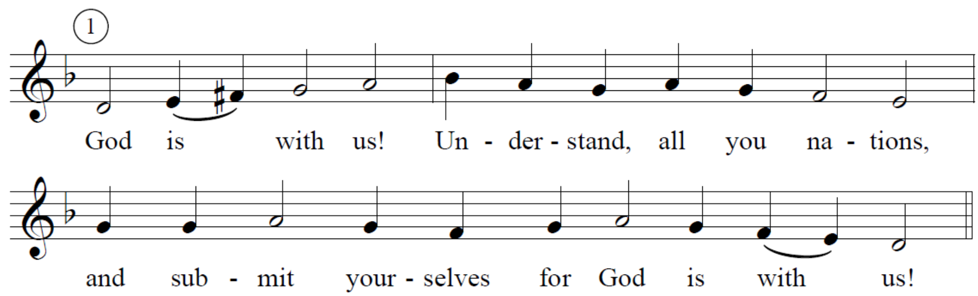
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
  Glory to you, ***O*** God! *(reverence)*
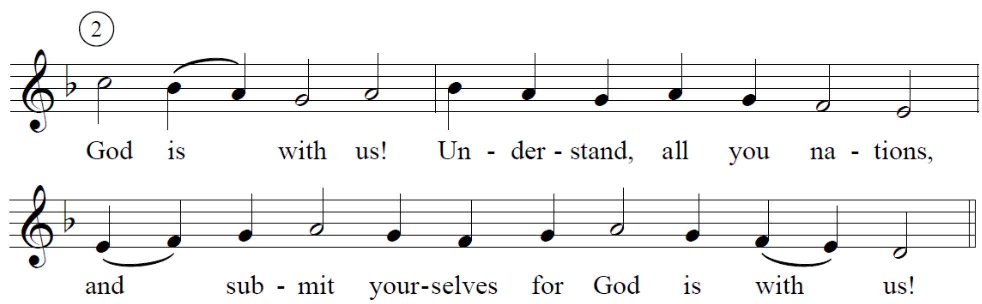
*And the last time, all sing together:*




## God is with us

*The faithful STAND. The clergy sing the following hymn using the first melody, and the people repeat is using the second melody. The people then sing the hymn as a refrain after each verse that the celebrant (or, in some places, the cantor) intones.*







**Verses:**

Give ear all you distant lands, for God is with us. (1)

You mighty ones, submit yourselves, for God is with us. (2)

If you strengthen yourselves again, again you will be defeated, for God is with us. (1)

Form a plan, but the Lord will thwart it, for God is with us. (2)

Whatever word you speak will not stand even among yourselves, for God is with us. (1)

We will not fear what you fear nor shall we be dismayed,for God is with us. (2)

Hallow the Lord our God and He will be your fear, for God is with us. (1)

If you trust in Him, He will be your refuge, for God is with us. (2)

We will hope in Him and by Him will we be saved, for God is with us. (1)

Here am I with the children God has given me, for God is with us. (2)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, for God is with us. (1)

Upon you who dwelt in the shadow of death a light has shone, for God is with us. (1)

For a child is born to us; a son is given to us, for God is with us.(2)

Upon His shoulder dominion rests, for God is with us. (1)

Of His peace there is no end, for God is with us. (2)

They call Him Angel of Great Counsel, for God is with us. (1)

Wonderful Counselor, for God is with us. (2)

Mighty God, Master, Prince of Peace, for God is with us. (1)

Father of the age to come, for God is with us. (2)

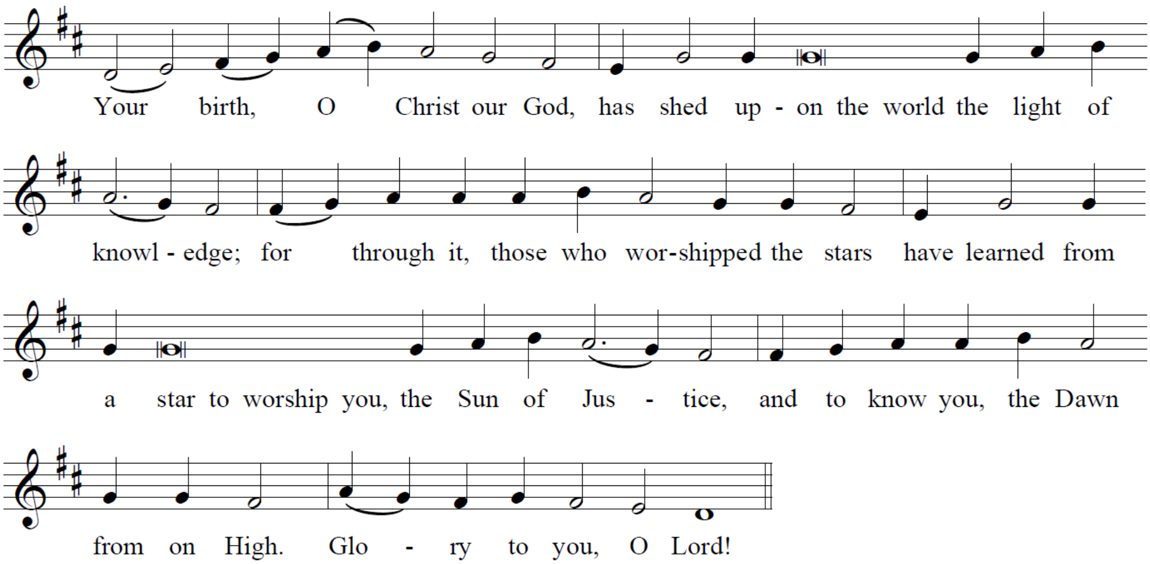
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, for God is with us. (1)

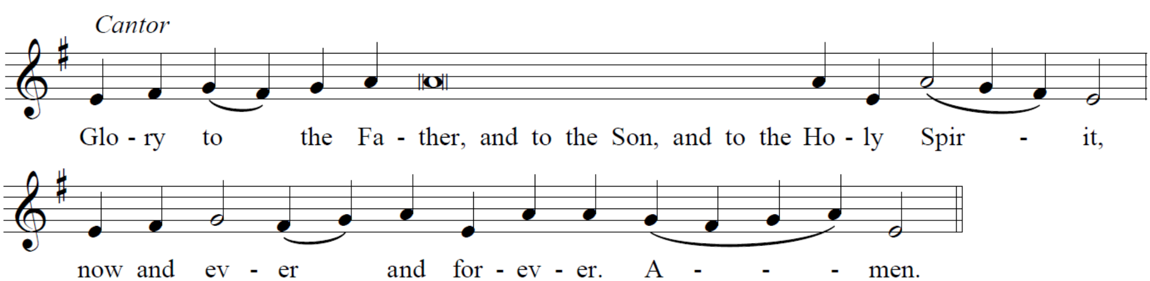
Now and ever and forever. Amen, for God is with us. (2)

*Then the clergy (or cantors) sing "God is with us" once more to the first melody, and the people repeat is using the second melody.*

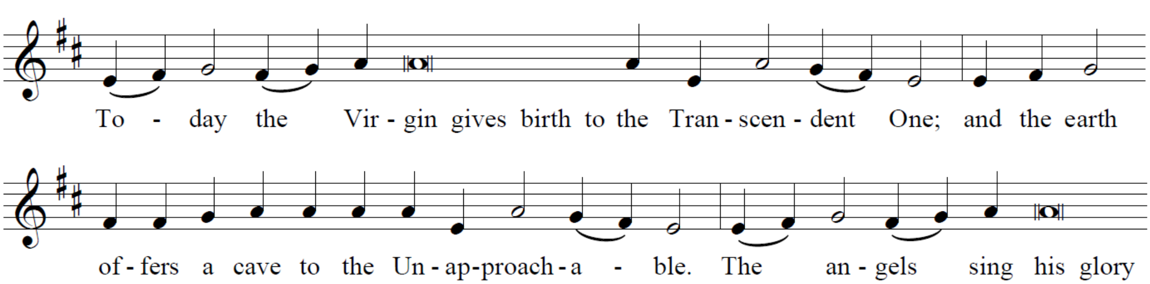
*Then the people sing the troparion and kontakion of the Nativity:*

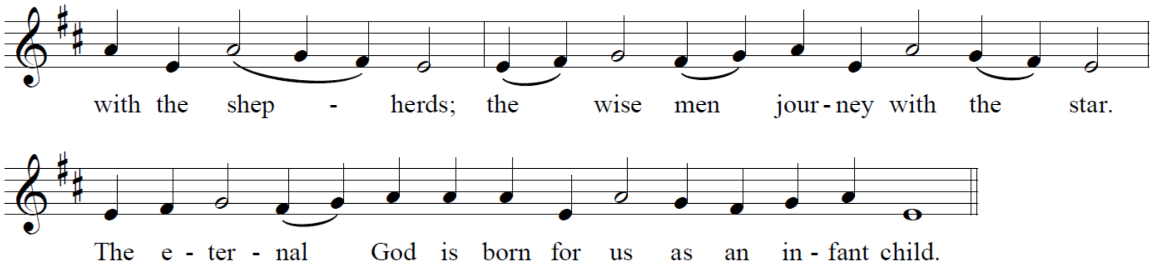
**Troparion of the Nativiy** - *Tone 4*




**Kontakion of the Nativity** - *Tone 3*

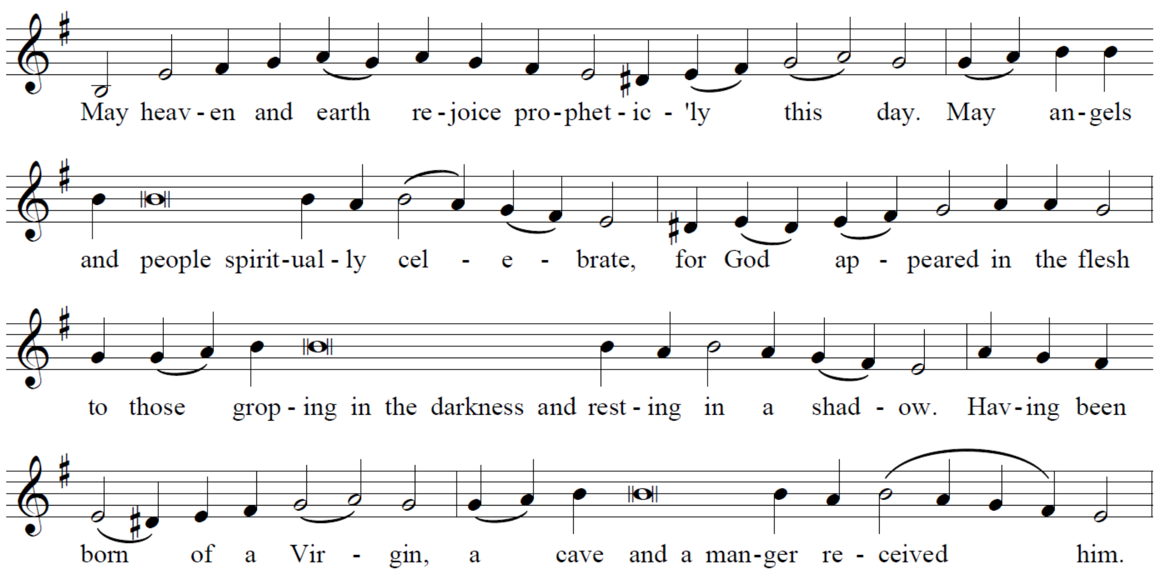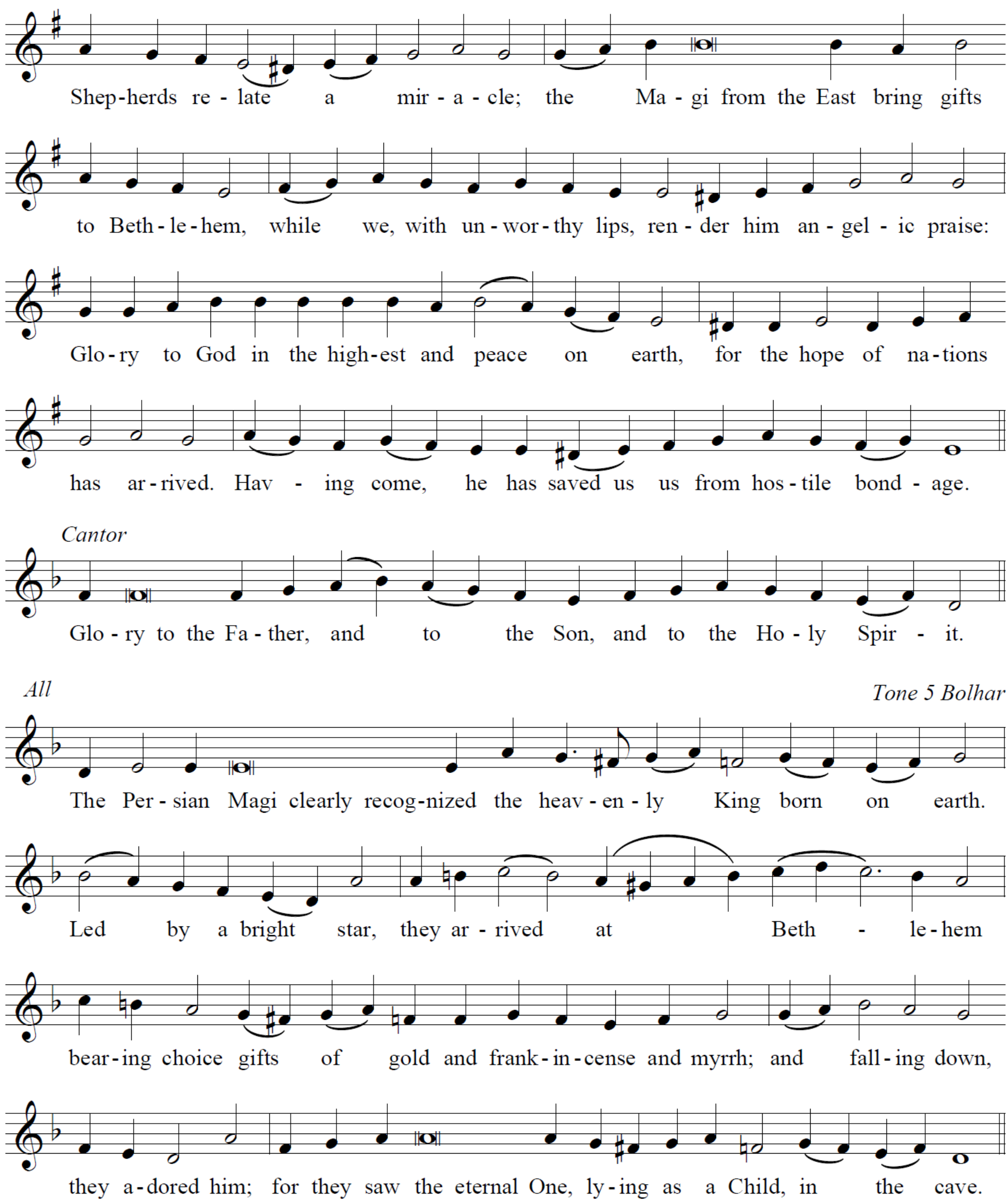




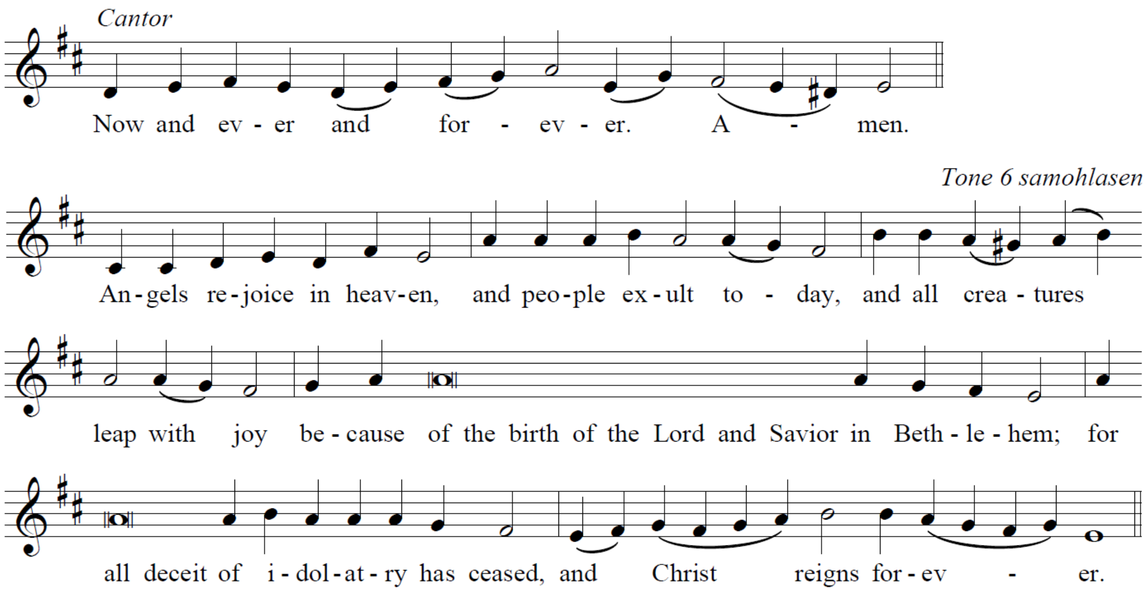

# Litija

*At this point in the service, the clergy, servers and people go in procession to the narthex (porch or vestibule of the church) to pray for the needs of the whole world. The celebrant takes the hand cross, and the deacon the censer. (If there is no deacon, a server takes the censer.) The celebrant and deacon go around the Holy Table, then through the Royal Doors, and through the center of the Church to the narthex, followed by the servers and people. The Hymns of the Litija are sung during this procession:*

*Tone 1 Bolhar*




Shep-herds re - late a mir - a - cle; the Ma - gi from the East bring gifts
to Beth - le - hem, while we, with un - wor - thy lips, ren - der him an - gel - ic praise:
Glo - ry to God in the high-est and peace on earth, for the hope of na - tions
has ar - rived. Hav - ing come, he has saved us us from hos - tile bond - age.
Cantor
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.
All
Tone 5 Bolhar
The Per - sian Magi clearly recog-nized the heav - en - ly King born on earth.
Led by a bright star, they ar - rived at Beth - le - hem
bear - ing choice gifts of gold and frank - in - cense and myrrh; and fall - ing down,
they a - dored him; for they saw the eternal One, ly - ing as a Child, in the cave.

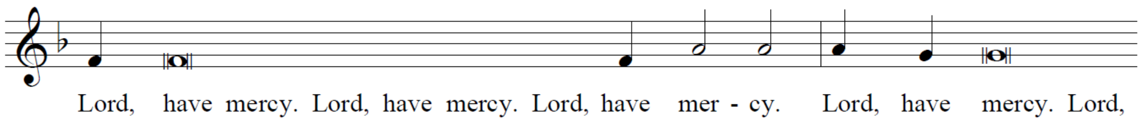


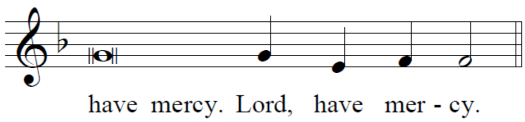

*Then the deacon (or the celebrant, if there is no deacon) censes the people, and intones the Litany of the Litija:*

**Deacon:** Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable and heavenly angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious prime apostles Peter and Paul whose feast we gloriously celebrate today; of the other holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, of the holy _____, patron of this church; of the holy ________

*(saint of the day)*, and of all the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.

**Response:**




*(Sing this twice.)*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our Holy Father *(Name),* pope of Rome, for his health and salvation, and that the Lord God may hasten and assist him in everything; O Lord, hear and have mercy.

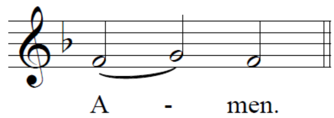
**Response:** "Lord, have mercy"*, twelve times, as above.*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our most reverend metropolitan *(Name),* for our God-loving bishop *(Name);* for our spiritual fathers and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for every Christian soul that is troubled and afflicted and in need of God's mercy and help; for the protection of this city and those who dwell here; for the peace and serenity of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God;for the salvation and assistance of our fathers and brothers and sisters who labor and serve with diligence and fear of God; for those who are absent and for those who are traveling; for the healing of those who are confined by illness; for the repose, blessed memory, and remission and forgiveness of sins of all our true-believing fathers and brothers and sisters who have gone before us; and for all our brothers and sisters who are present at these services; and for all who have served and now serve in this holy church, let us say:

**Response:** "Lord, have mercy"*, twelve times, as above.*

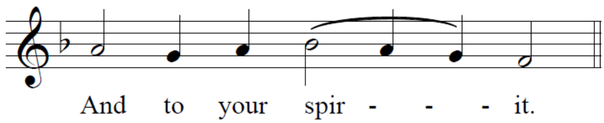
**Celebrant:** Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of the ends of the earth and of those far off at sea, and be merciful to us, O merciful Master, on account of our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**



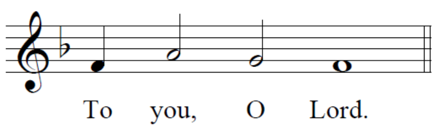

**Celebrant:** Peace be to all!

**Response:**



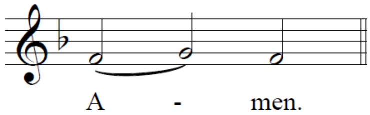

**Deacon:** Bow your heads to the Lord.

**Response:**
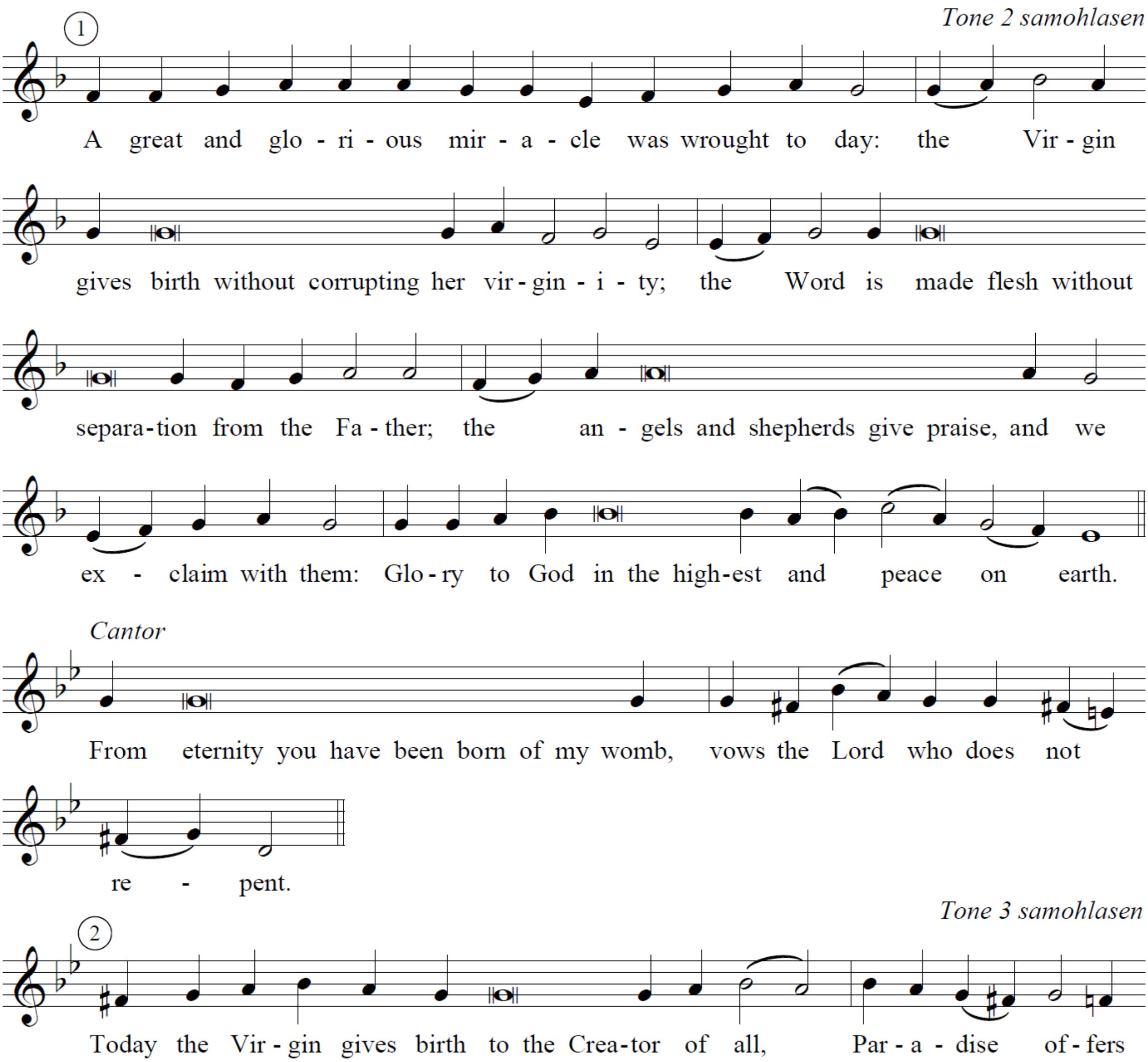



**Celebrant:** All-merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, make our prayer acceptable: through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat,bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; grant us remission of our faults; shelter us under the shadow of your wings; drive far from us every enemy and adversary and make our life peaceful. Lord, have mercy on usand on your world and save our souls, for you are good and you love us all.
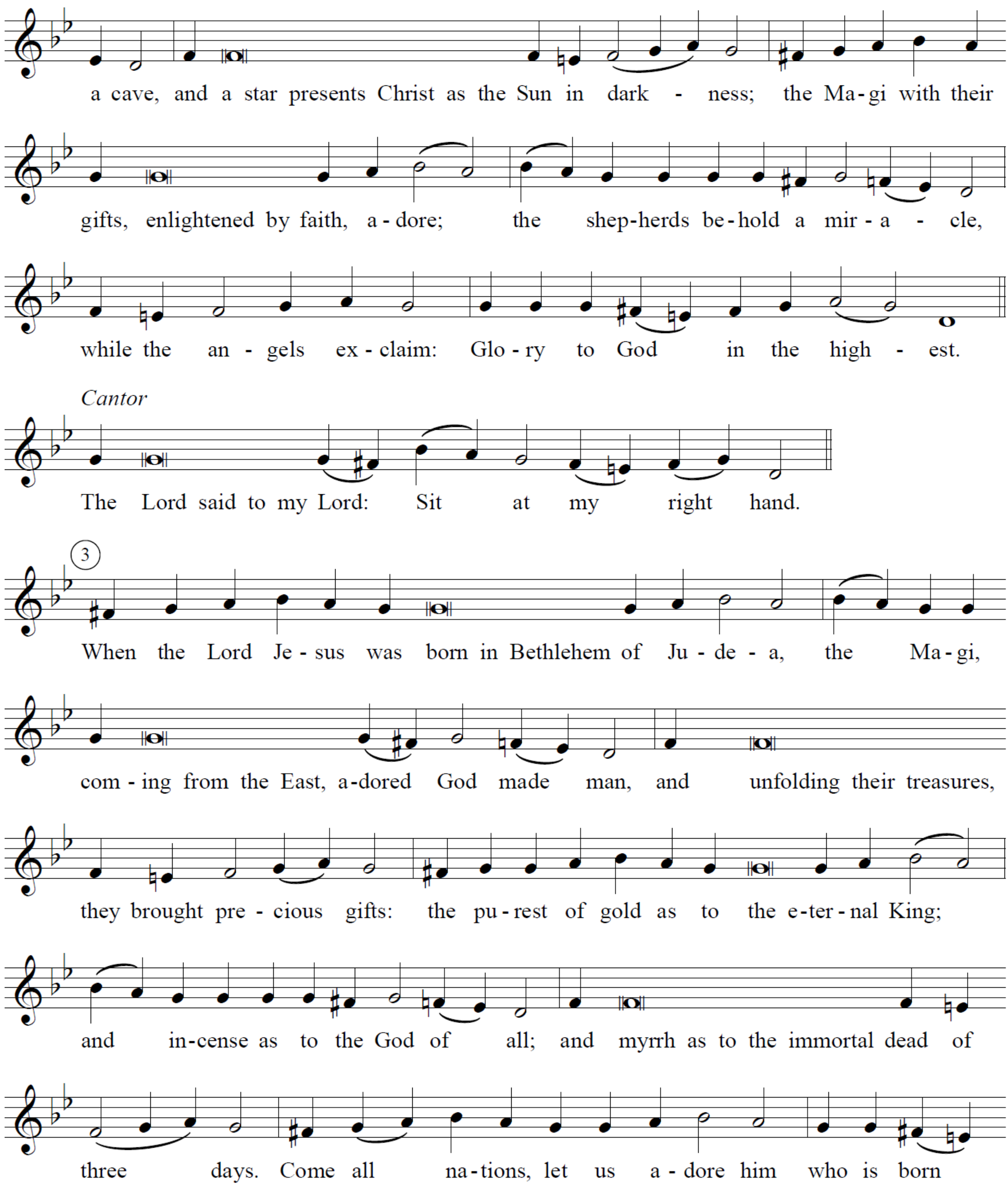
**Response:**
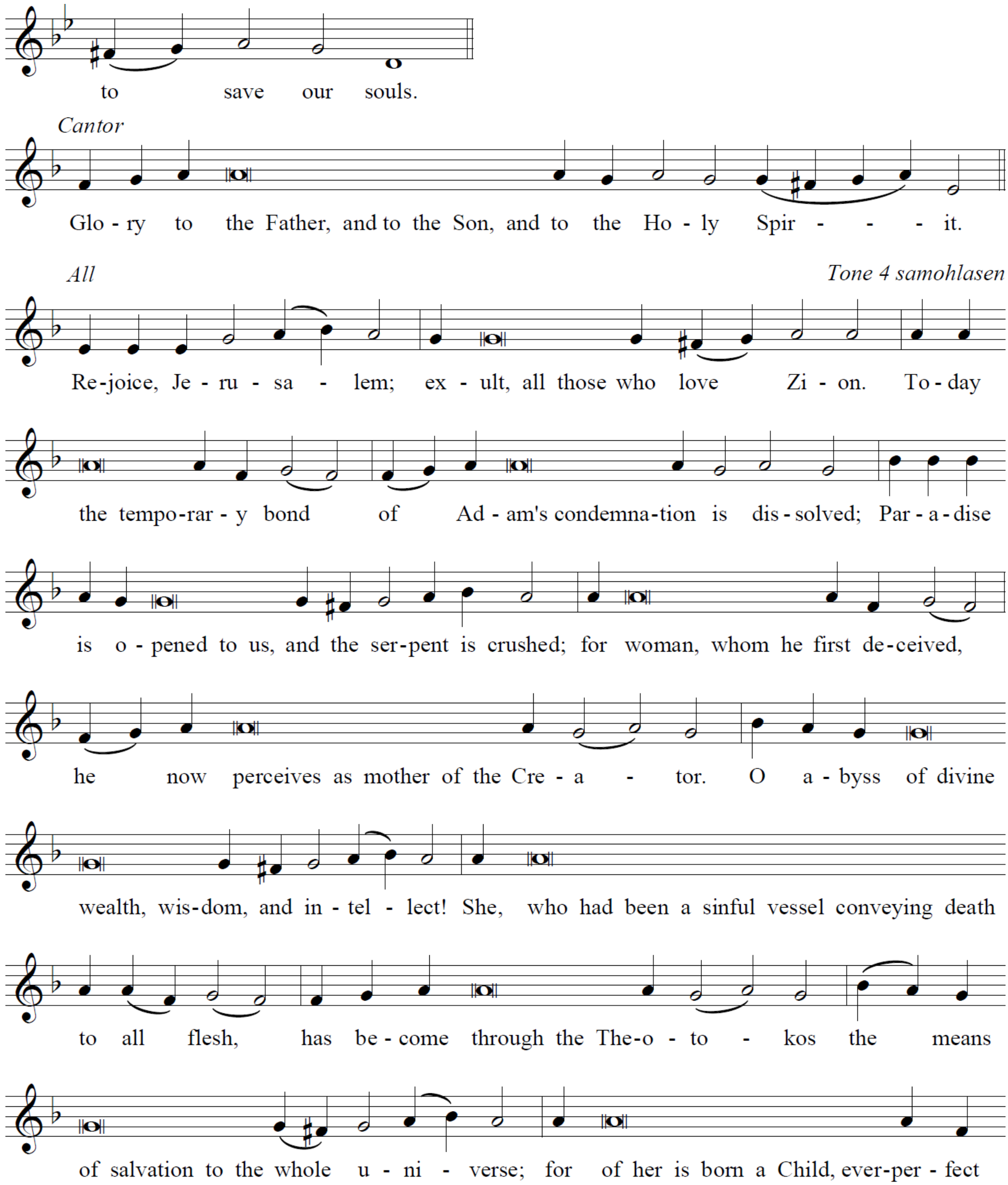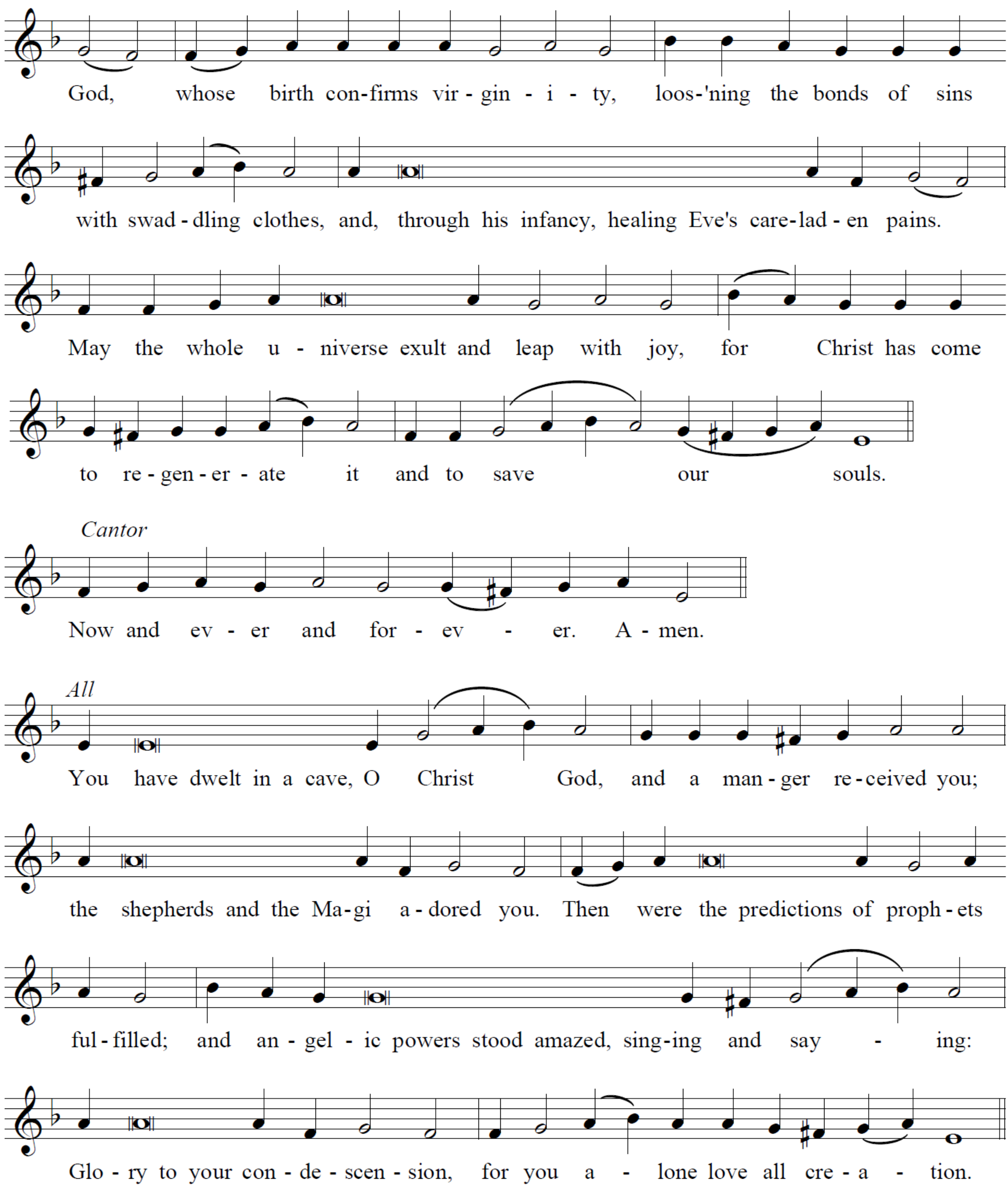



*The clergy, servers, and people make their way in procession back into the nave of the church, as the hymns of the Aposticha (below) are sung. The clergy and servers stand at the tetrapod.*

## Aposticha
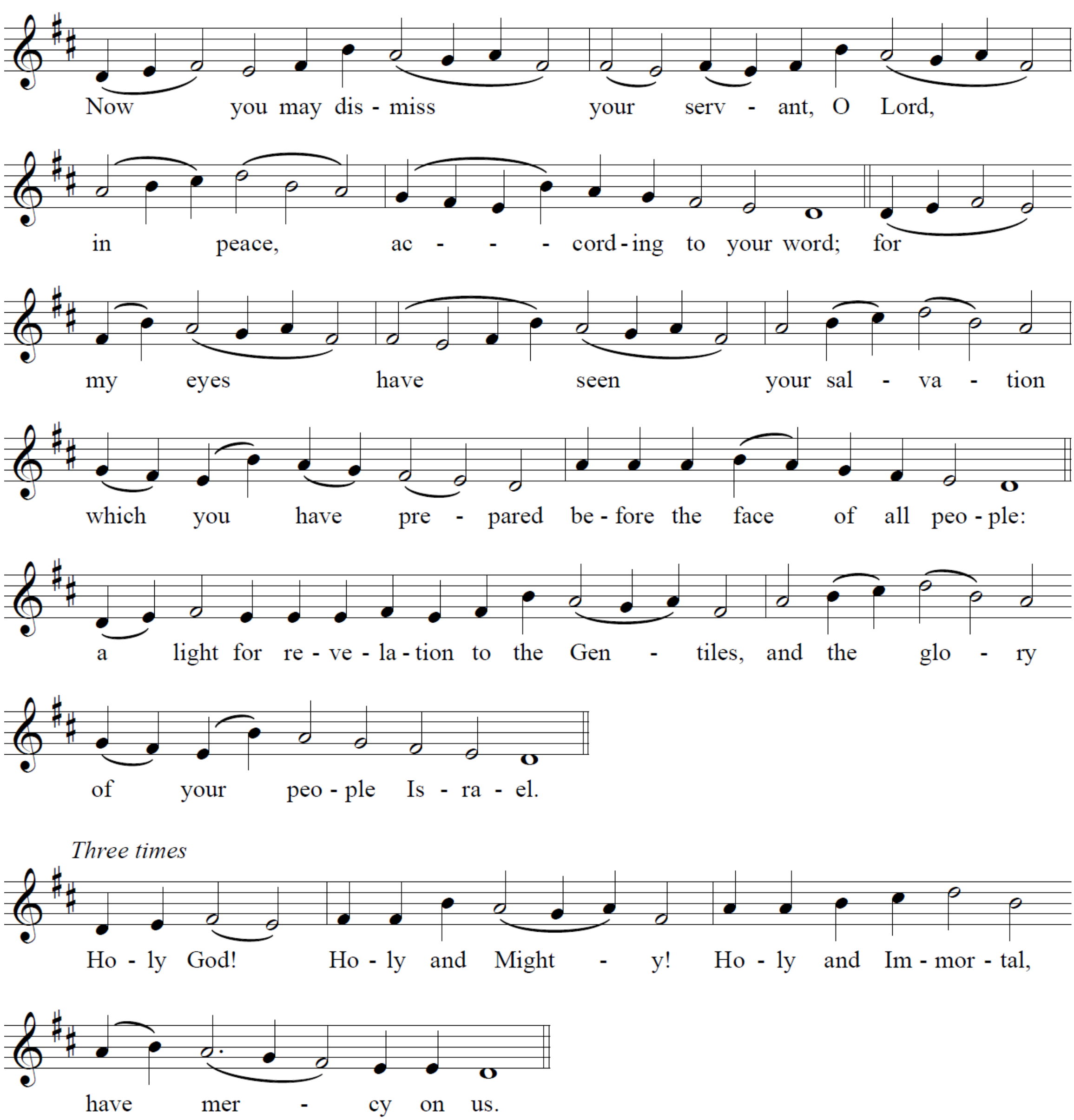



a cave, and a star presents Christ as the Sun in dark - ness; the Ma-gi with their
gifts, enlightened by faith, a-dore; the shep-herds be-hold a mir - a - cle,
while the an - gels ex - claim: Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
Cantor
The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand.
3
When the Lord Je - sus was born in Bethlehem of Ju - de - a, the Ma-gi,
com - ing from the East, a-dored God made man, and unfolding their treasures,
they brought pre - cious gifts: the pu-rest of gold as to the e-ter-nal King;
and in-cense as to the God of all; and myrrh as to the immortal dead of
three days. Come all na-tions, let us a - dore him who is born


to save our souls.
Cantor
Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - - - it.
All
Tone 4 samohlasen
Re-joice, Je - ru - sa - lem; ex - ult, all those who love Zi - on. To - day
the tempo-rar - y bond of Ad - am's condemna-tion is dis - solved; Par - a - dise
is o - pened to us, and the ser-pent is crushed; for woman, whom he first de-ceived,
he now perceives as mother of the Cre - a - tor. O a - byss of divine
wealth, wis-dom, and in - tel - lect! She, who had been a sinful vessel conveying death
to all flesh, has be - come through the The-o - to - kos the means
of salvation to the whole u - ni - verse; for of her is born a Child, ever-per - fect


God, whose birth con-firms vir - gin - i - ty, loos-'ning the bonds of sins
with swad - dling clothes, and, through his infancy, healing Eve's care-lad - en pains.
May the whole u - niverse exult and leap with joy, for Christ has come
to re - gen - er - ate it and to save our souls.
Cantor
Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.
All
You have dwelt in a cave, O Christ God, and a man - ger re - ceived you;
the shepherds and the Ma - gi a - dored you. Then were the predictions of proph - ets
ful - filled; and an - gel - ic powers stood amazed, sing-ing and say - ing:
Glo - ry to your con - de - scen - sion, for you a - lone love all cre - a - tion.

*The faithful* ***STAND*** *while they (or according the local custom, the celebrant) sing the*

## The Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon



**All:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;
Master, forgive our transgressions;
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for ***your*** name's sake.
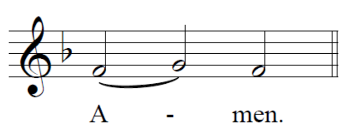
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, ***have*** mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. ***A***men.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us ***from*** evil.

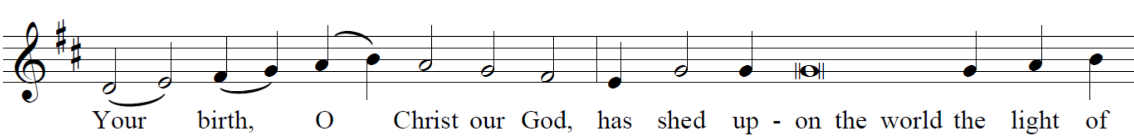
**Celebrant:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

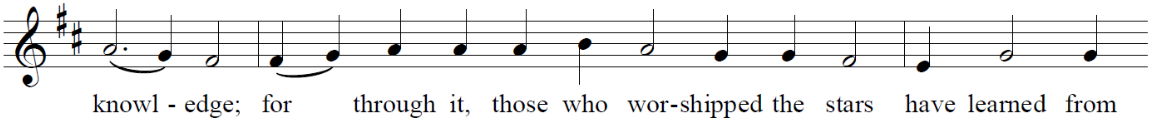
**Response:**

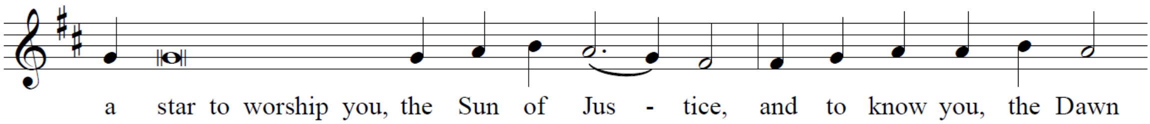


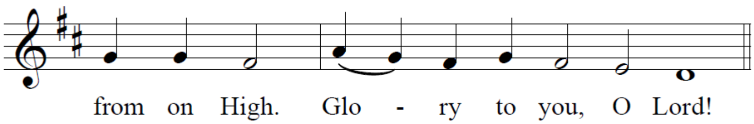

*The Troparion of the Nativity is now sung three times while the Celebrant incenses the four sides of the tetrapod, on which has been placed bread, wheat, wine, and oil.*

**Troparion of the Nativiy** - *Tone 4*





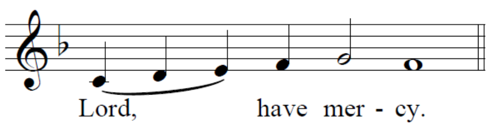




## Blessing of Bread

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:**

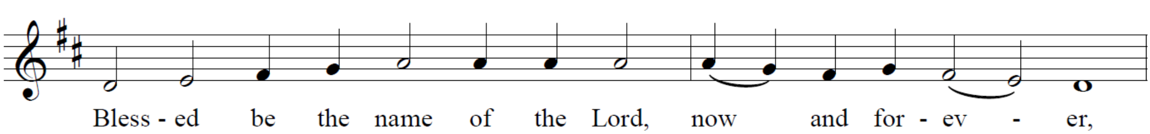



**Celebrant:** Lord Jesus Christ our God, you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and fed the five thousand. Likewise bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and through your whole world. Sanctify your faithful who will partake of them, for you yourself bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

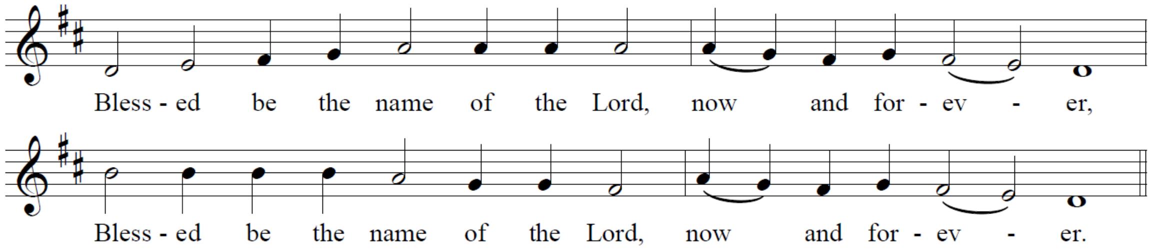
**Response:**




*The celebrant now sings the following:*




*And the people respond with:*




*The cantor and faithful chant Psalm 33:*

**Psalm 33**

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on ***my*** lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and ***be*** glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise ***his*** name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set ***me*** free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be ***a***bashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all ***his*** distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, ***to*** rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge ***in*** him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who ***re***vere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack ***no*** blessing.

**Celebrant:** The blessing of the Lord be upon you through his grace and loving-kindness, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

*The Royal Doors are closed.*

## *Matins*

Glory to God in the highest
and to people on earth peace and good will (3 times)

O Lord, You shall open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise. (2 times)

**HEXAPSALMOS**

**PSALM 3**

**Lector:** How many are my foes, O Lord!
How many are rising up against me!
How many are saying about me:
"There is no help for him in God."
But you, Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, who lift up my head.
I cry aloud to the Lord.
He answers from his holy mountain.
I lie down to rest and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.
I will not fear even thousands of people
who are ranged on every side against me.
Arise, Lord; save me, my God,
you who strike all my foes on the mouth,
you who break the teeth of the wicked!
O Lord of salvation,
bless your people!

*and again:*
I lie down to rest and I sleep.
I wake, for the Lord upholds me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and forever. Amen.
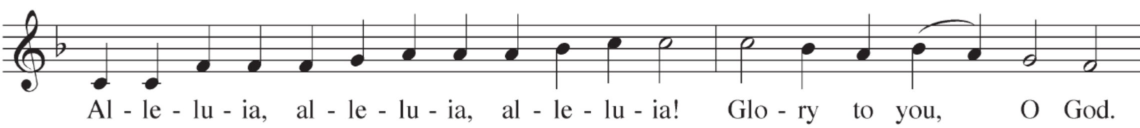
*Three times, each with a reverence:*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!

**All:**

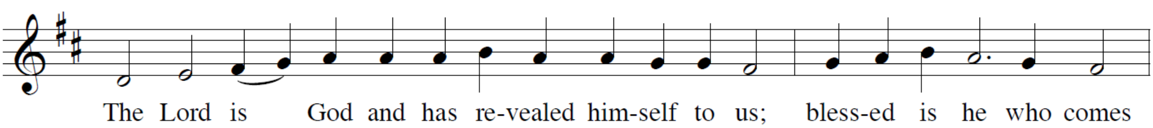
*The third time, all sing with melody:*

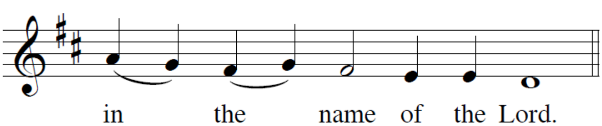



## THE LORD IS GOD

**Deacon:** *(recto tono)* The Lord is God and has revealed himself to us;* blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**The Lord is God**
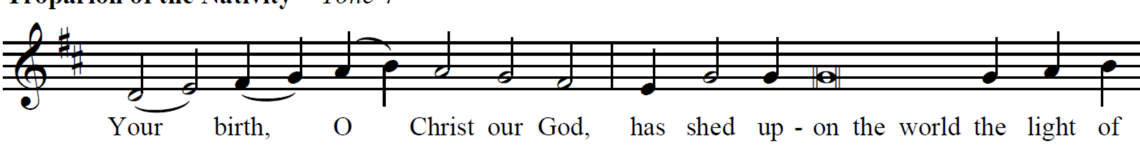



verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his love endures forever.

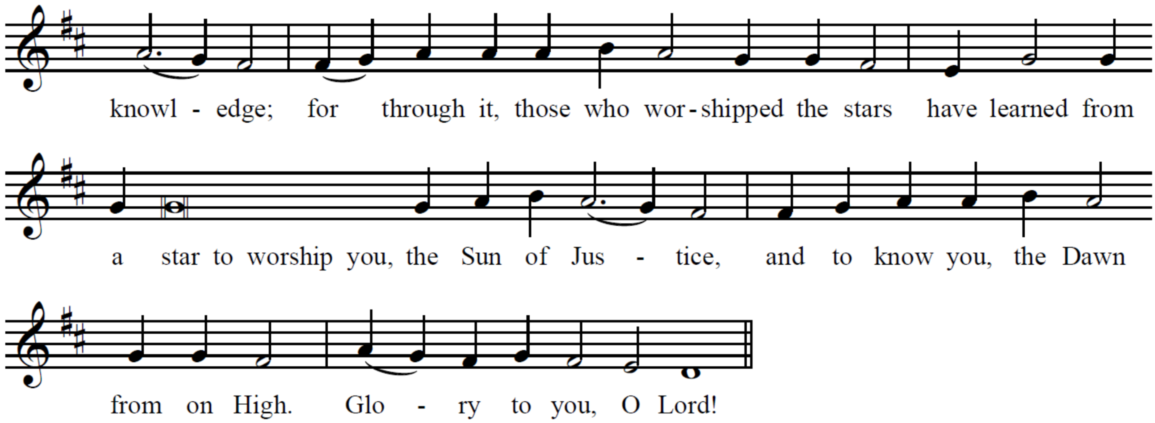
verse: They encircled me, compassed me about; in the Lord's name I crushed them.

verse: I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

verse: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

**Troparion of the Nativity** - *Tone 4*



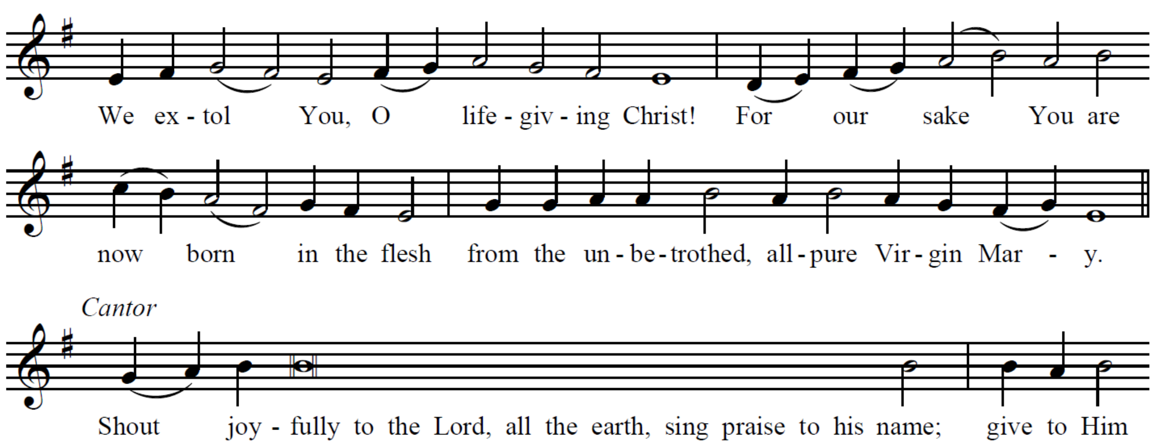


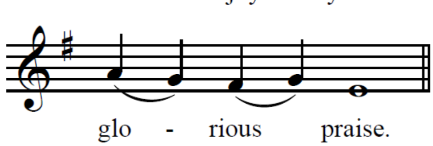

**Cantor:** Glory.... (*and all repeat the troparion*: "Your birth, O Christ our God...")

**Cantor:** Now and ever... (*and all repeat the troparion*: "Your birth, O Christ our God...")
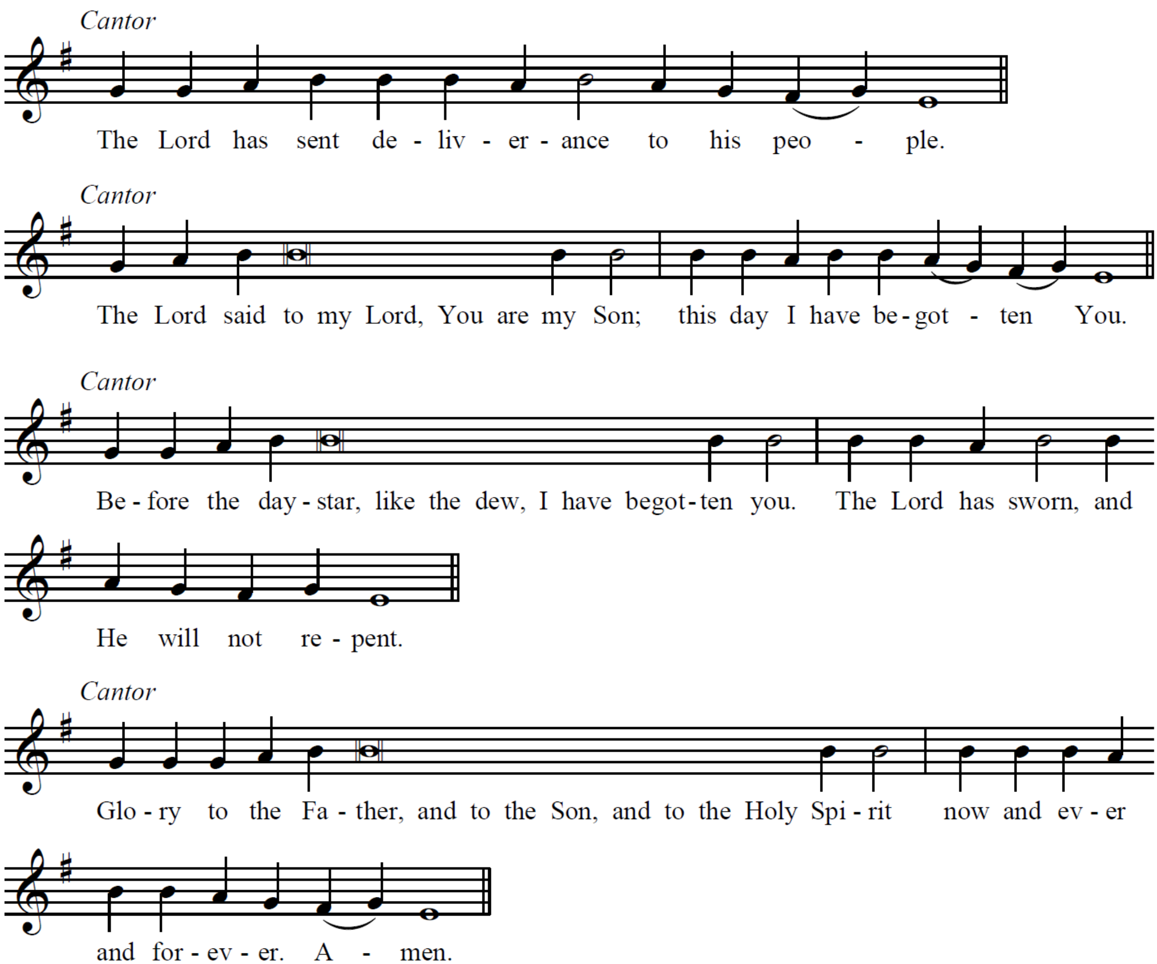
*At the "Glory…" of the Troparion, the Royal Doors are opened for the Exaltation. The Deacon taking up the incense and the Priest the icon, process out the Royal Doors to the Tetrapod, while the Priest sings the exaltation once. The faithful continue the exaltation while the Deacon incenses the icon.*

**Exaltation**
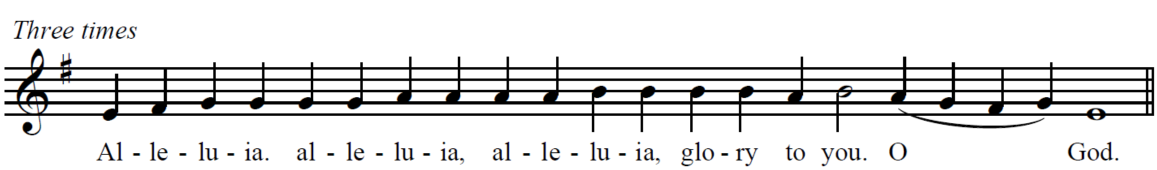



*The exaltation is repeated after each verse:*
We extol you, O life-giving Christ...



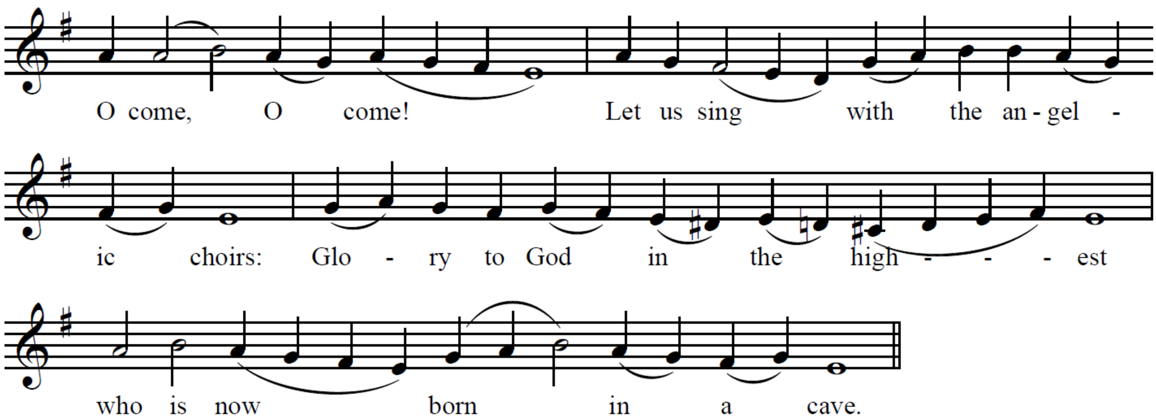

*After the last repetition of the Exaltation:*




*The Alleluia is folowed by the Bulgarian verse ("Bolharski pripiv"):*

## Priest:

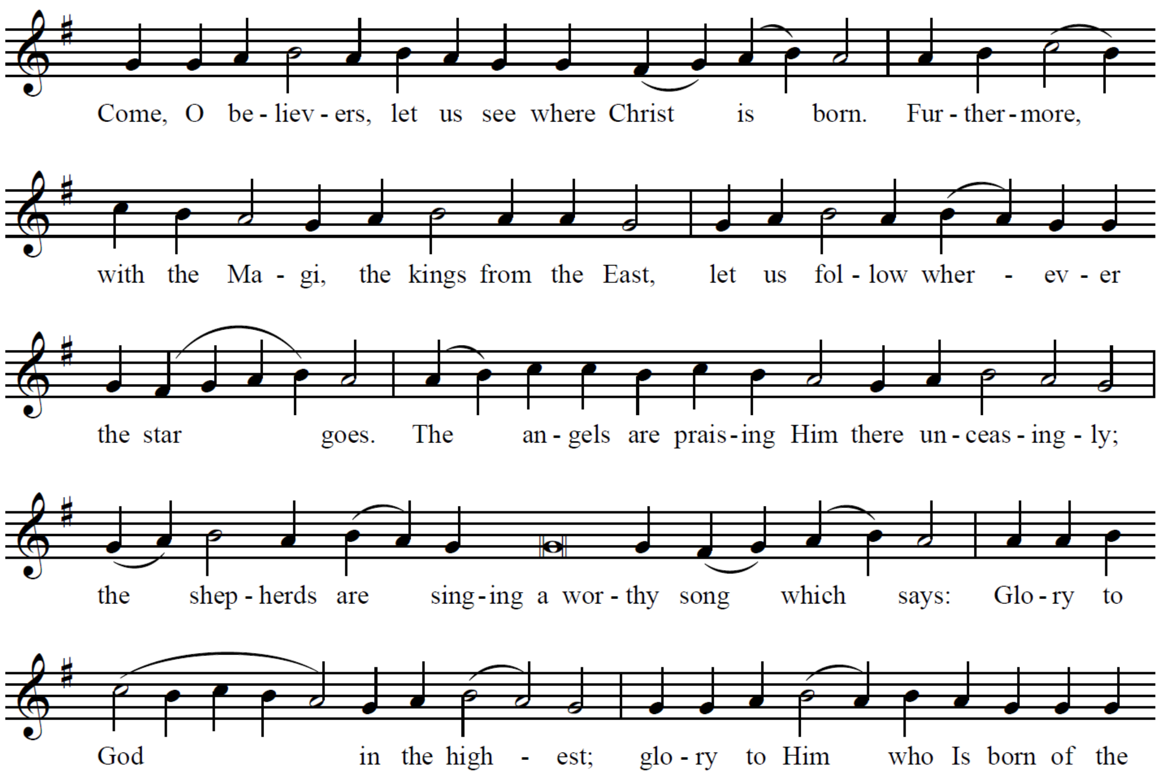
**Bulgarian verse** *("Bolharski pripiv")*
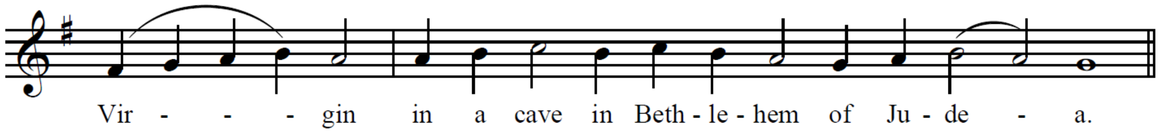



*The priest and deacon return to the altar.*

## All:

**Sessional Hymn III** - *Tone 4 podoben: Udivisja Josif*



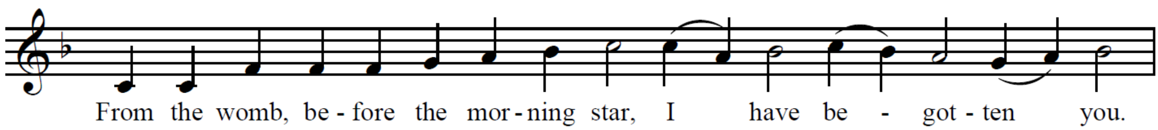


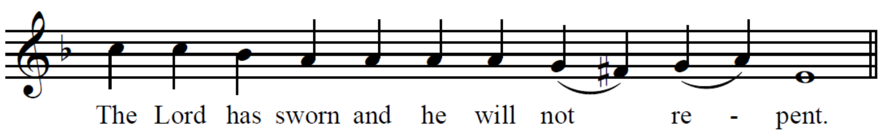

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Priest:** Peace + be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

**Prokeimenon** - *Tone 4* (Psalm 109: 3-4, 1):
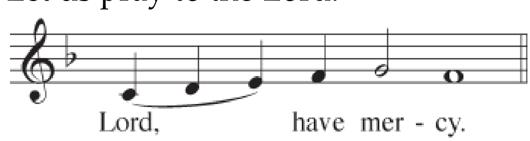



***Verse:*** The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.

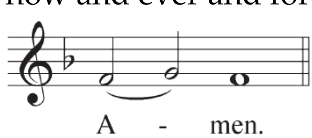
**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:**



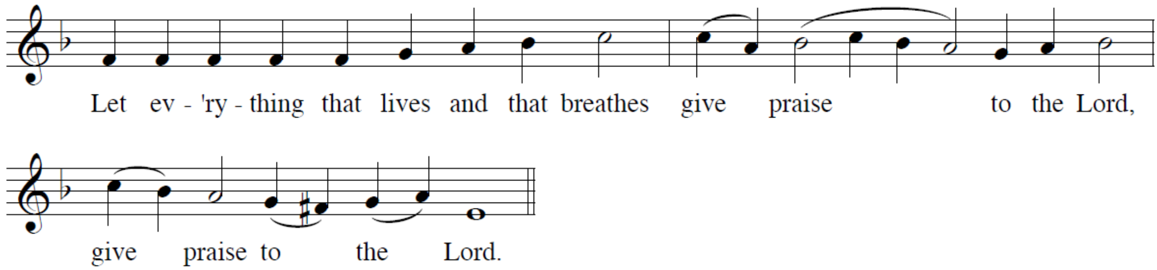

**Priest:** For you are holy, O our God, and you dwell in the holy place, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**




**Deacon:** Let everything that lives and that breathes* give praise to the Lord!
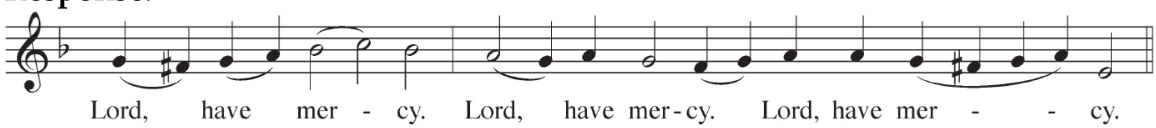
**Let everything that lives**




**Verse:** Praise God in his holy place;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

**Deacon:** That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

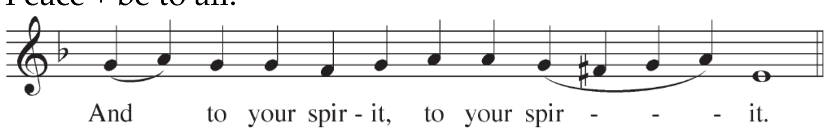
**Response:**




**Deacon:** Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.
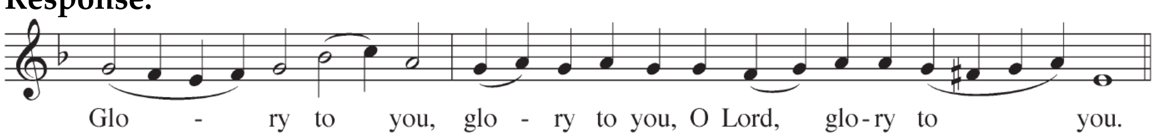
**Priest:** Peace + be to all!

**Response:**
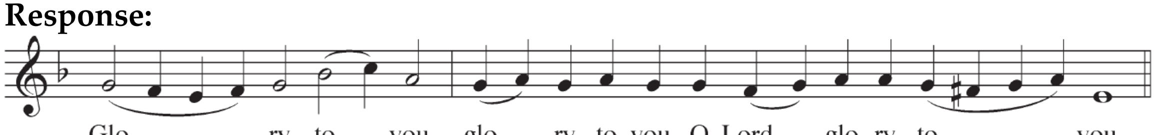



**Priest:** A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist *(Name).*

**Response:**




***Priest:*** ***Matthew 1: 16-25***

**Response:**



## PSALM 50

***The faithful do not come forward until the Canon, since it is a Vigil.***

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my ***of***fense.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from ***my*** sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always ***be***fore me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I ***have*** done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without reproach when ***you*** judge,

O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I ***con***ceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach ***me*** wisdom.

O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter ***than*** snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed ***may*** thrill.

From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all ***my*** guilt

A pure heart create for me, O God;
put a steadfast spirit ***with***in me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your ho***ly*** spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor ***sus***tain me,

that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return ***to*** you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out ***your*** goodness.
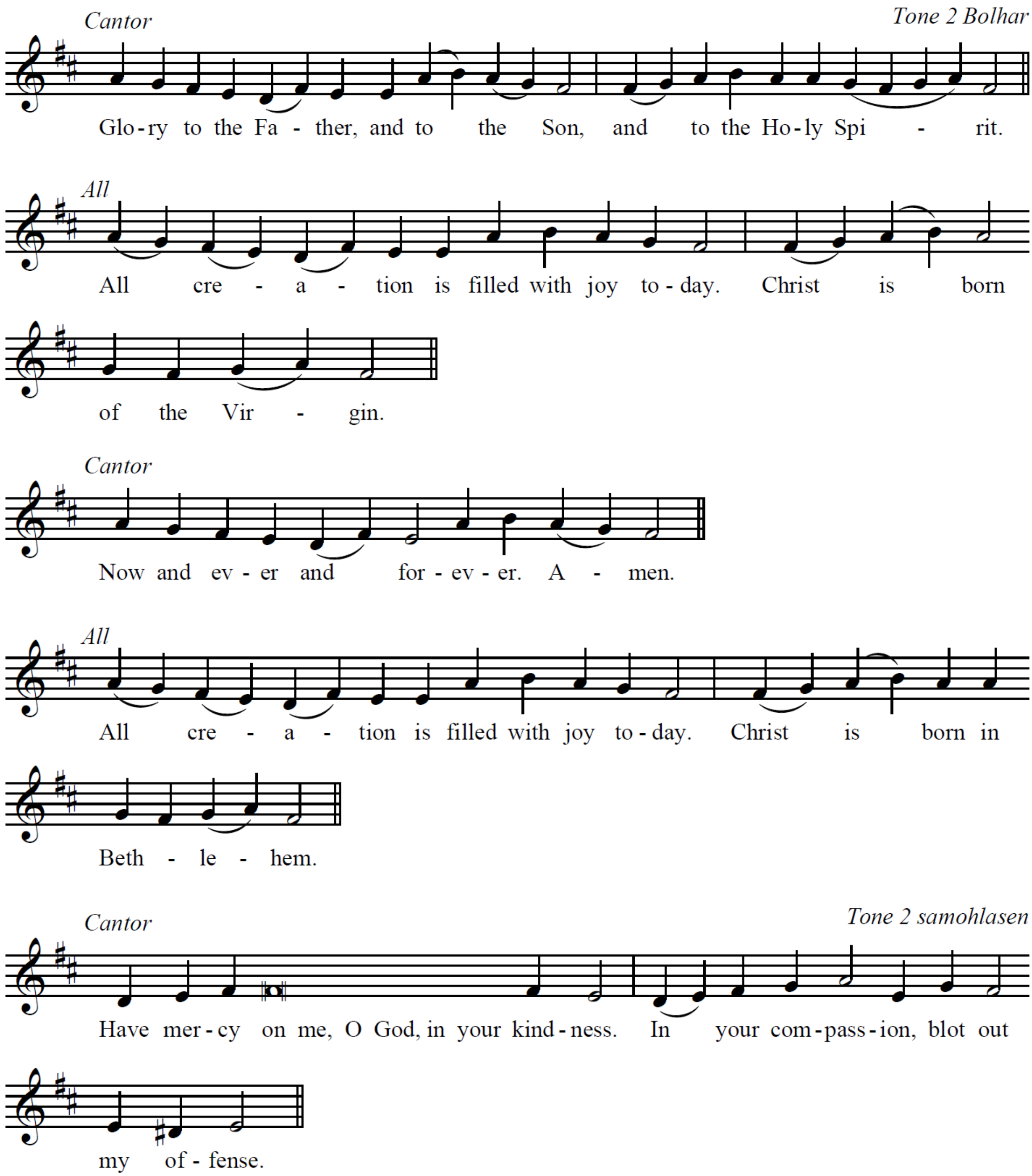
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare ***your*** praise.

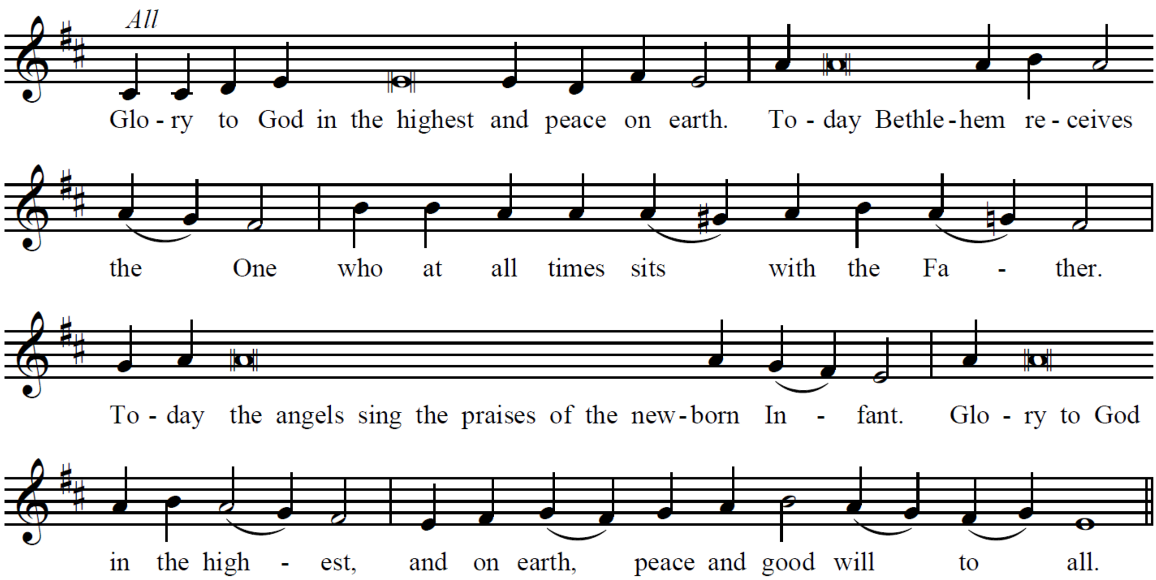
For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would ***re***fuse,

my sacrifice, a contrite spirit,
a humbled, contrite heart you will ***not*** spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion:
rebuild the walls of ***Je***rusalem.

Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed
then you will be offered young bulls on ***your*** altar.

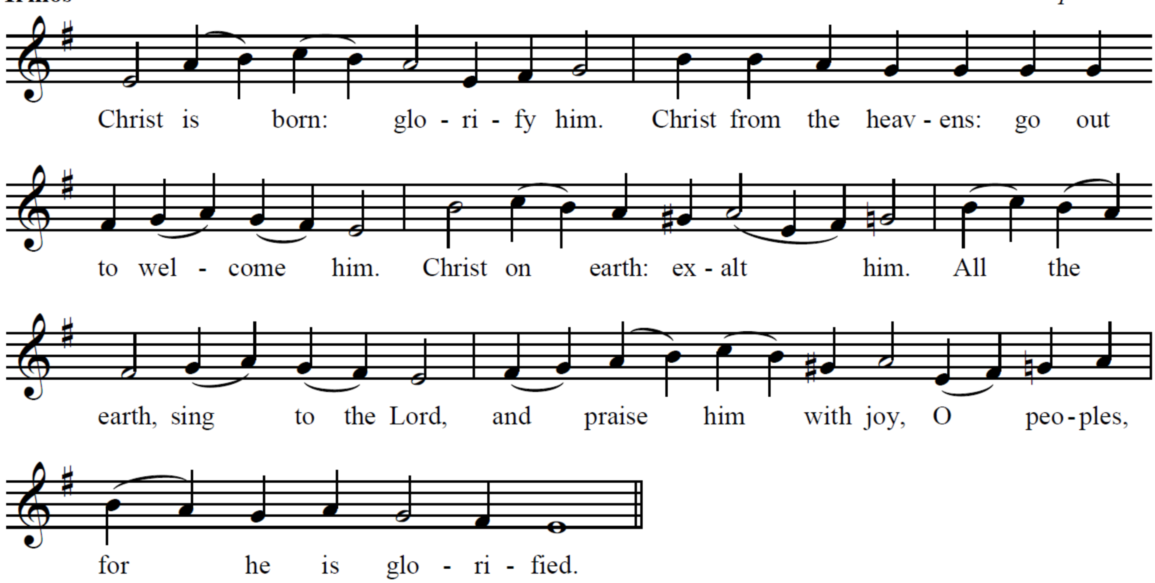

Cantor
Tone 2 Bolhar
Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi - rit.
All
All cre - a - tion is filled with joy to-day. Christ is born
of the Vir - gin.
Cantor
Now and ev-er and for-ev-er. A - men.
All
All cre - a - tion is filled with joy to-day. Christ is born in
Beth - le - hem.
Cantor
Tone 2 samohlasen
Have mer-cy on me, O God, in your kind-ness. In your com-pass-ion, blot out
my of-fense.
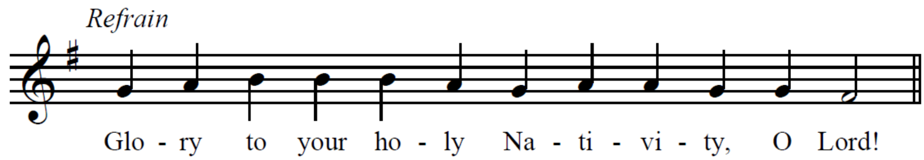



***The faithful now come forward*** *to receive the anointing of oil, blessed bread, and wine. During this the Canon is sung. The greeting is: Christ is Born! and the response is: Glorify Him! After the anointing, the Royal Doors are closed. The priest may remove the phelonion.*

**Ode 1**

**Irmos** *Tone 1 samopodoben*

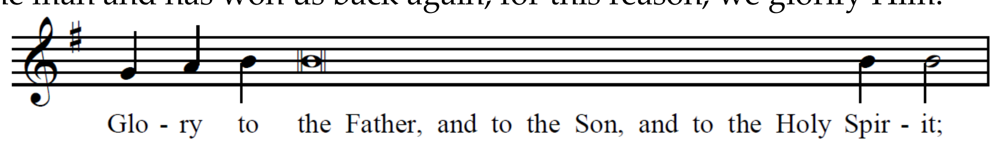


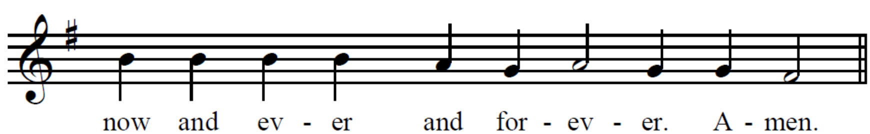



Although created in the image of God, humankind fell from the divine and higher life, and through transgression became entirely subject to corruption and decay. But now the all-good Creator fashions human nature anew; for this reason, we glorify Him. *Refrain*

When the Creator saw the one whom He had created with his own hands perishing, He lowered the heavens and came down; He took upon himself human nature from the most holy and pure Virgin, truly becoming flesh; for this reason, we glorify Him. *Refrain*

Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father; He is Wisdom, Word, and Power. And unknown to the heavenly hosts and those upon the earth, He became man and has won us back again; for this reason, we glorify Him.



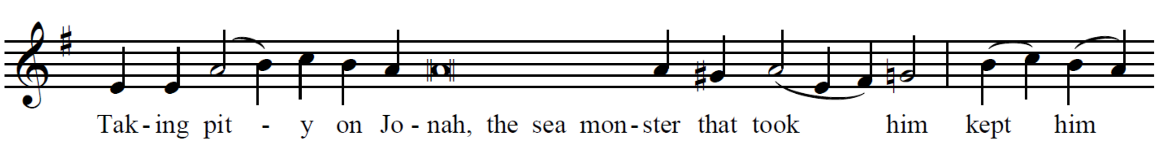



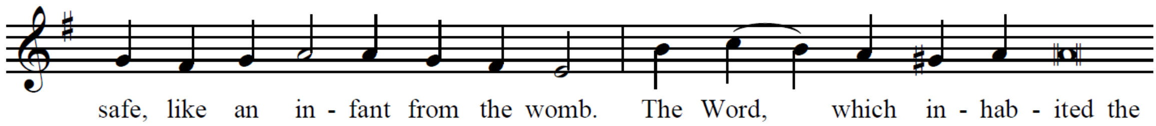

Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father; He is Wisdom, Word, and Power. And unknown to the heavenly hosts and those upon the earth, He became man and has won us back again; for this reason, we glorify Him.
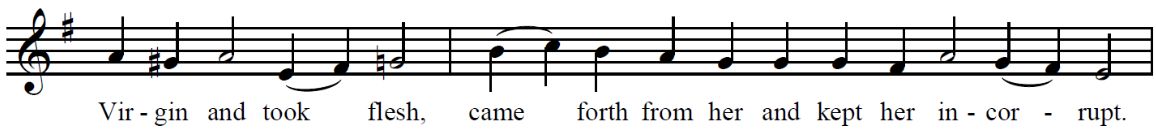
*The irmos (above) is repeated as the katavasia.*

**Ode 6**
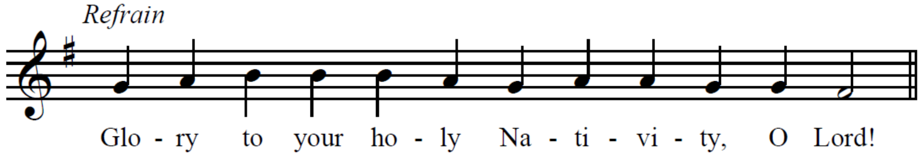
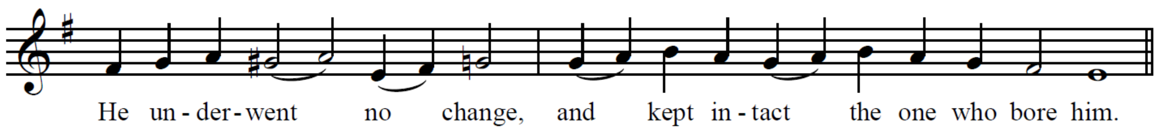
**Irmos**







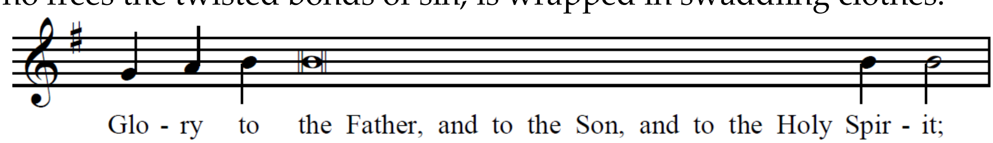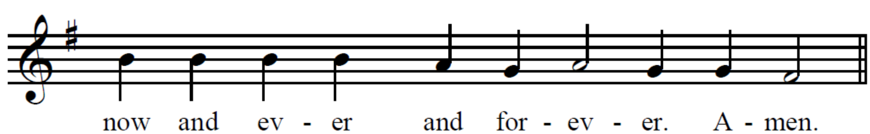








Christ our God, begotten from the Father before the morning star, appears in the flesh; He, who directs the armies of heaven, is laid in a manger of dumb beasts. He, who frees the twisted bonds of sin, is wrapped in swaddling clothes.



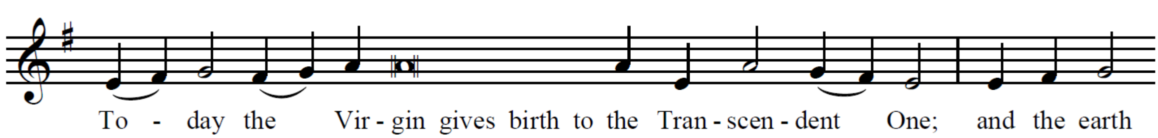


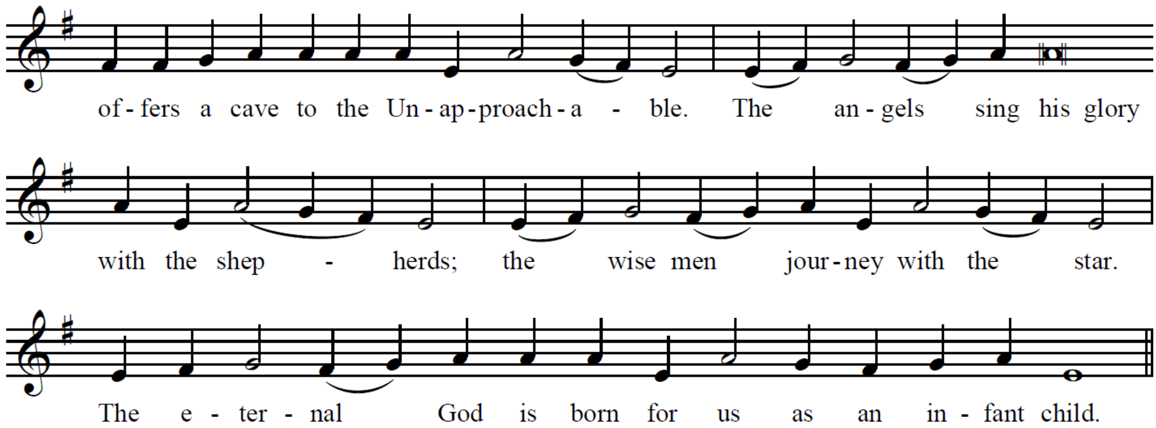


A young child, a Son is born from the race of Adam and is given to the faithful. He is the Father and Prince of the World to come; He is the all-powerful God who rules over all creation; He is called the Angel of great counsel.

*The irmos (above) is repeated as the katavasia.*

**Kontakion of the Nativity** - *Tone 3*
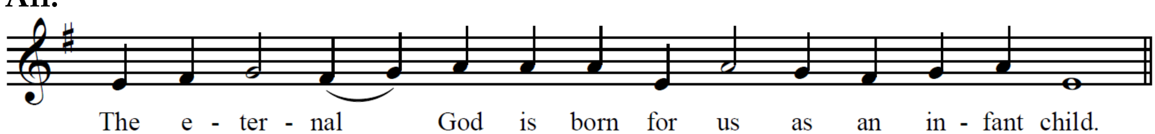





**Reader:**

Ikos: Bethlehem has opened up Eden for us. Come and let us see the delights that we have found there in secret. Come and let us gather the fruits of Paradise that are within the cave. There, the unwatered Root has manifested itself, and it has sprouted forgiveness. There, the undug Well, of which David yearned to drink, is found. There, the Virgin, who gave birth to the Infant, immediately quenched the thirst of Adam and David. Therefore, let us hasten to the place where:

**All:**

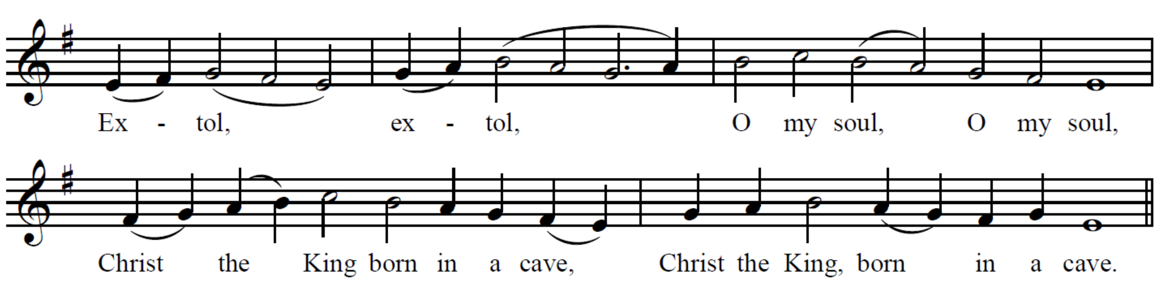



## Ode 9

*The deacon, standing before the Icon of the Theotokos with the incense begins sensing and sings the Magnification:*

**Deacon:**

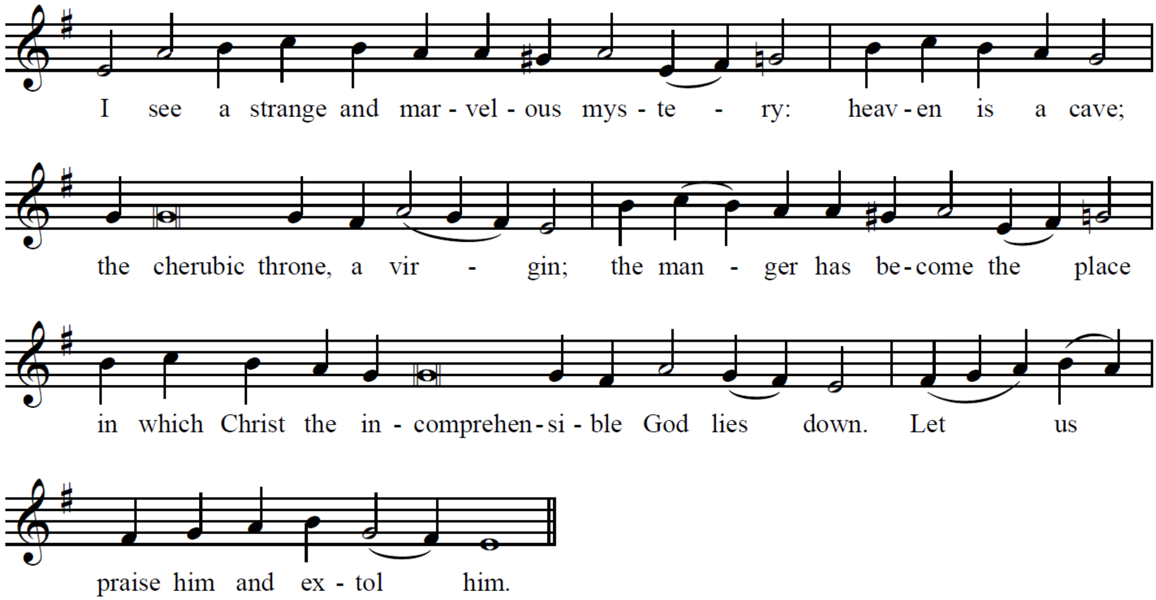
**Magnification**



*The returns to the altar and incenses the entire church and faithful, as usual.*

**All:**

**Irmos**




**All:** **Extol, extol, O my soul. O my soul.* Extol our God born in the flesh from the Virgin.**

Observing the unusual path of a mysterious and newly shining star which was brighter than any other heavenly light, the Magi learned that Christ the King was born on earth in Bethlehem for our salvation.

**All:** **Extol, extol, O my soul. O my soul.* Extol our God who is worshiped by the Magi.**

The Magi asked of Herod: Where is the newborn King whose star we have seen? We have come to worship Him. The enemy of God was troubled and irrationally schemed how to kill Christ.

**All:** **Extol, extol, O my soul. O my soul.* Extol the pure Virgin, who has given birth to Christ the King.**

Herod asked the Magi, who had come to Bethlehem to worship Christ with their gifts, when they had first seen the star which directed them. But the Magi
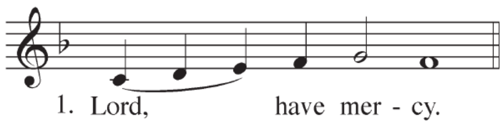
returned to their own country by the same star, thereby deceiving Herod, the killer of the Innocents.

*The magnification and irmos (above) are repeated as the katavasia.*

## SMALL LITANY
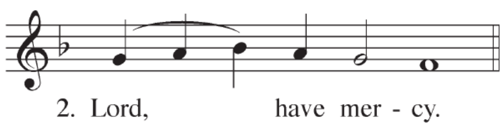
**Deacon:** Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:**



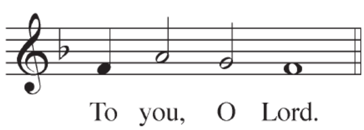

**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:**



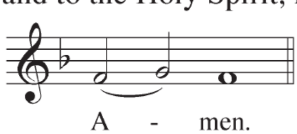

**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:**

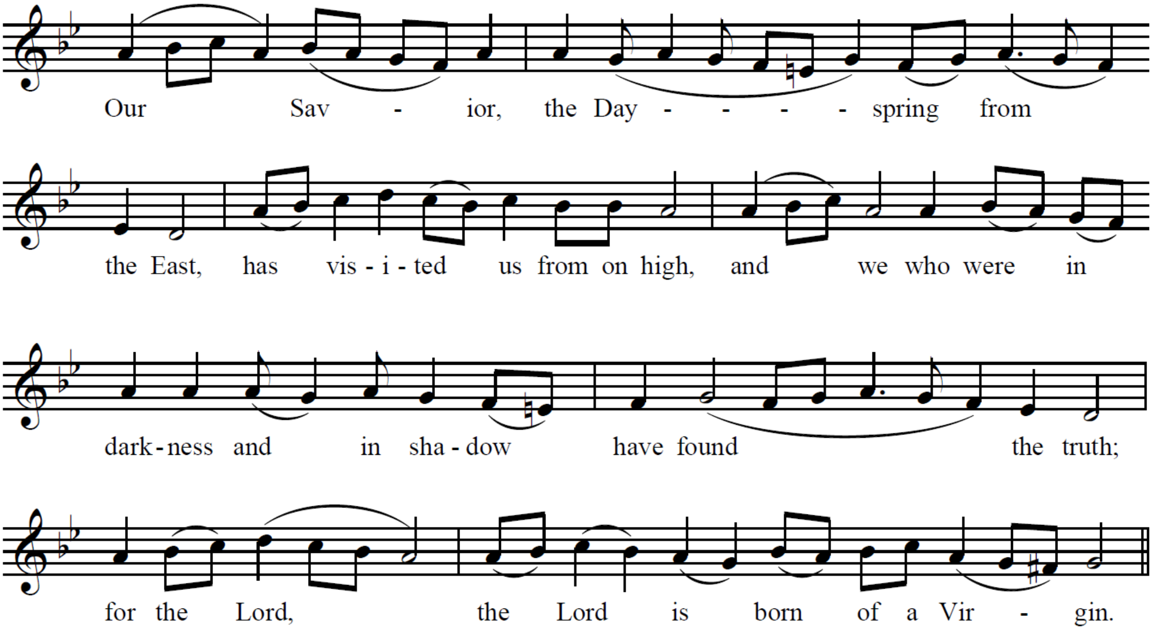



**Priest:** O God, our God, who have placed all spiritual and intellectual powers under your will, we pray and beg you: accept these hymns of praise which we offer to you according to our ability together with all your creatures. Give us in exchange the riches of your goodness, for before you all beings in the heavens, or on earth and under the earth bend their knees, and everything that lives or that breathes gives praise to your glory beyond reach, for you are the one true God, full of mercy. For all the heavenly powers praise you, and we give glory to you: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**



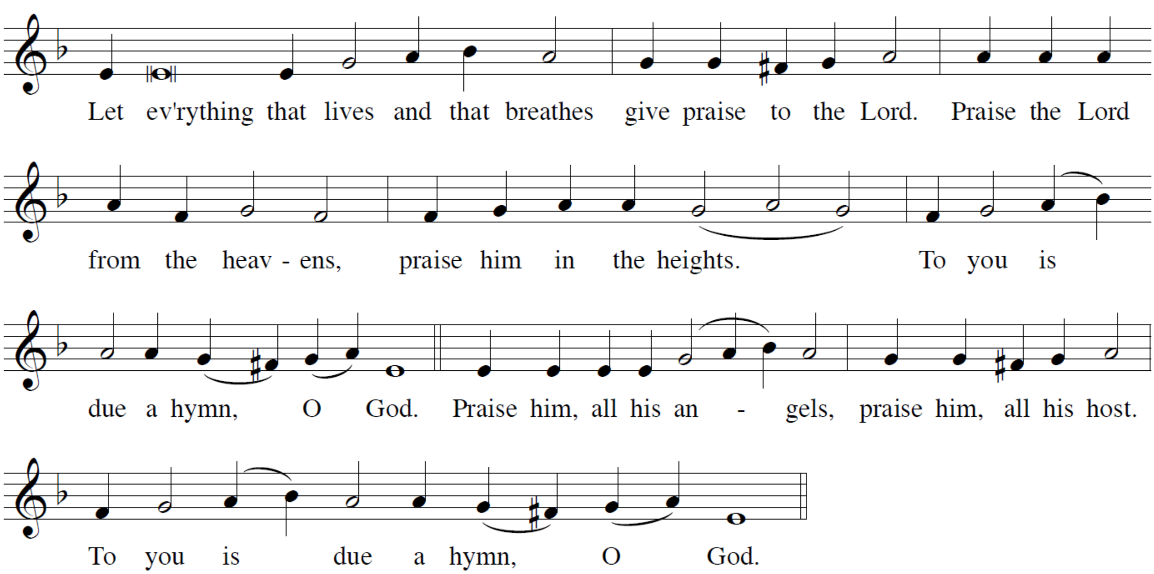
**Hymn of Light** - *Tone 3 samopodoben:*




## THE PSALMS OF PRAISE

*The phelonion is vested back on the priest during the Psalms of Praise.*

**Psalm 148**



Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shin***ing*** stars.

Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above ***the*** heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
He commanded; they ***were*** made.

He fixed them forever,
gave a law which shall not pass ***a***way.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea creatures and ***all*** oceans,

fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey ***his*** word;

all mountains and hills,
all fruit trees ***and*** cedars,

beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on ***the*** wing;

all earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes ***and*** rulers.

Young men and maidens,
old men together ***with*** children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is ***ex***alted.

The splendor of his name
        reaches beyond heaven ***and*** earth.

He exalts the strength of his people,
        he is the praise of all ***his*** saints,
of the children of Israel,
        of the people to whom he ***comes*** close.

**PSALM 149**

Sing a new song to the Lord,
        his praise in the assembly of ***the*** faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
        let Zion's sons exult in ***their*** king.

Let them praise his name with dancing
        and make music with timbrel ***and*** harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people.
        He crowns the poor with ***sal***vation.

Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
        shout for joy and take ***their*** rest.

Let the praise of God be on their lips
        and a two-edged sword in ***their*** hand,

to deal out vengeance to the nations
        and punishment on all ***the*** peoples;

to bind their kings in chains
    and their nobles in fetters ***of*** iron.

To carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
    this honor is for all ***his*** faithful.

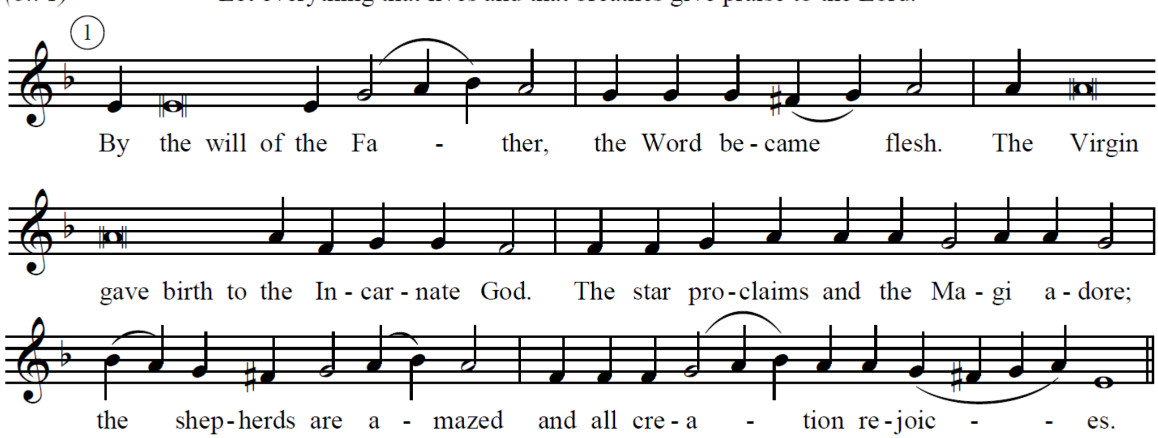
Praise God in his holy place,
    praise him in his migh***ty*** heavens.

Praise him for his powerful deeds,
    praise his surpass***ing*** greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet
    praise him with lute and harp.

Praise him with timbrel and dance,
    praise him with strings ***and*** pipes.

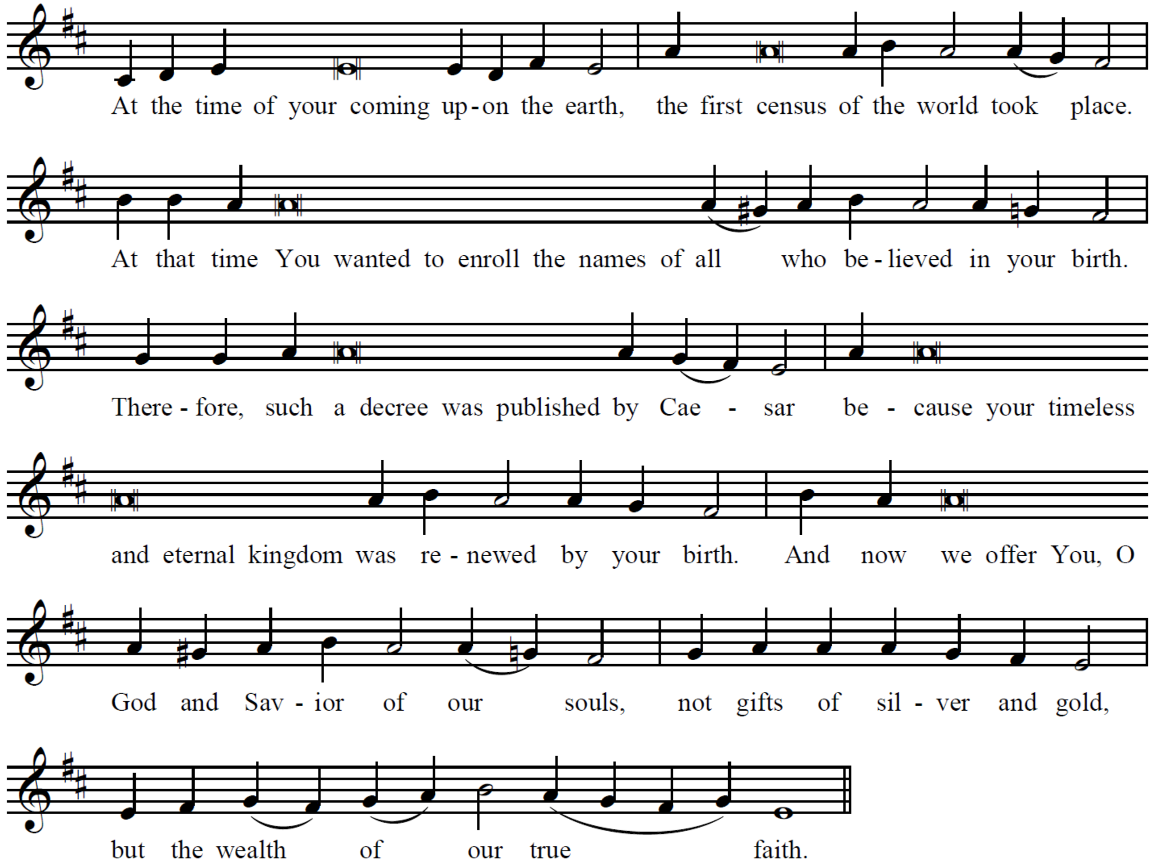
**Cantor:** O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals.
*(on 1)* Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.




*The Royal Doors are opened.*

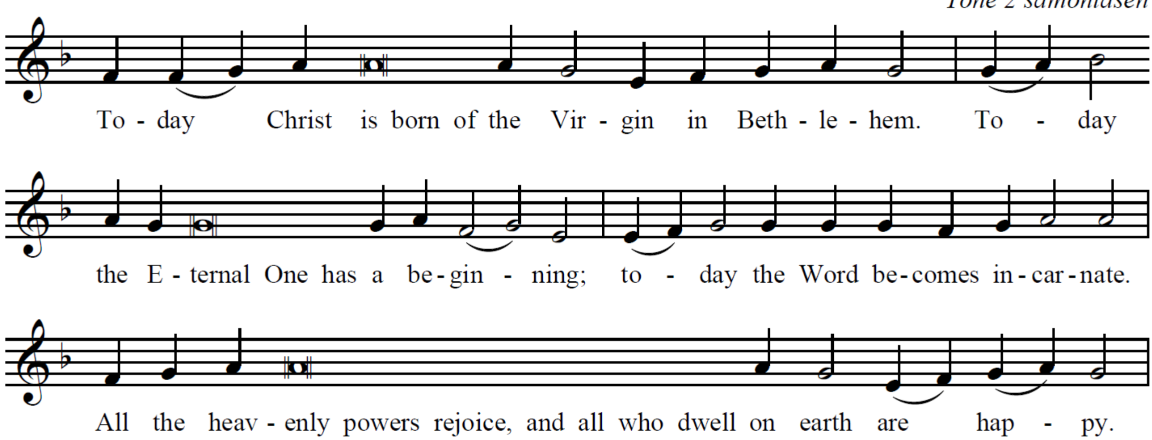
**Cantor:** *(Tone 6)* Glory...

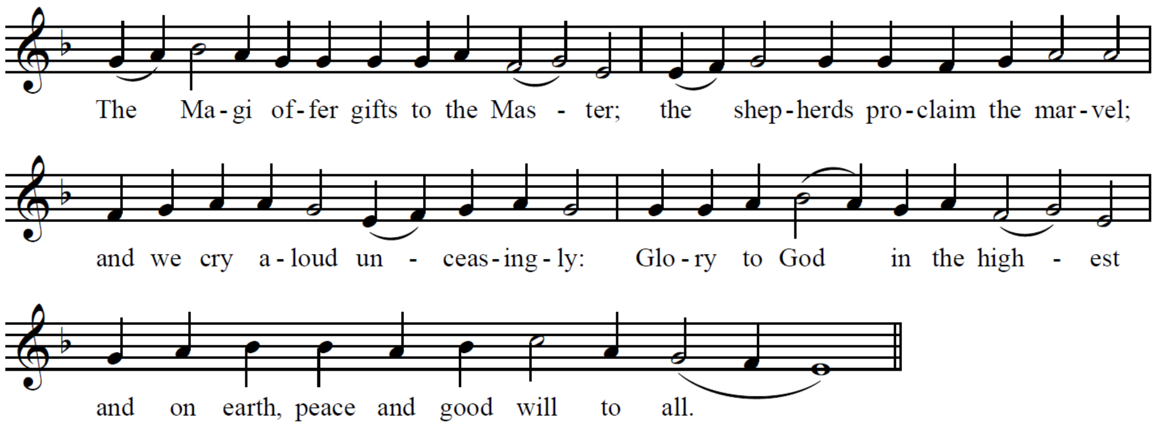
*Tone 6 samohlasen*




**Cantor:** *(Tone 2)* Now and ever...

*Tone 2 samohlasen*

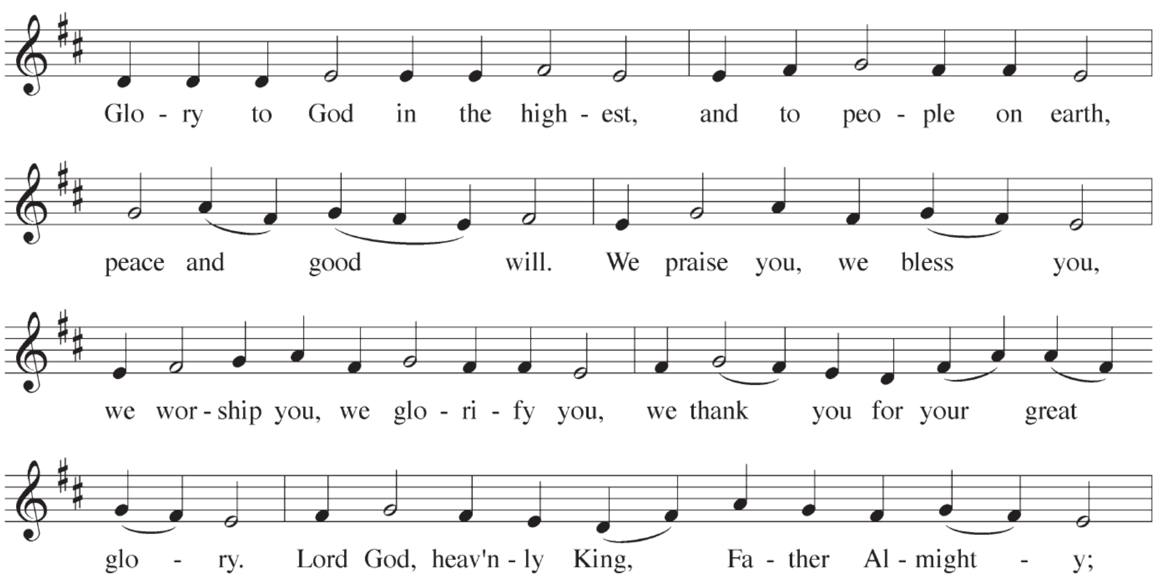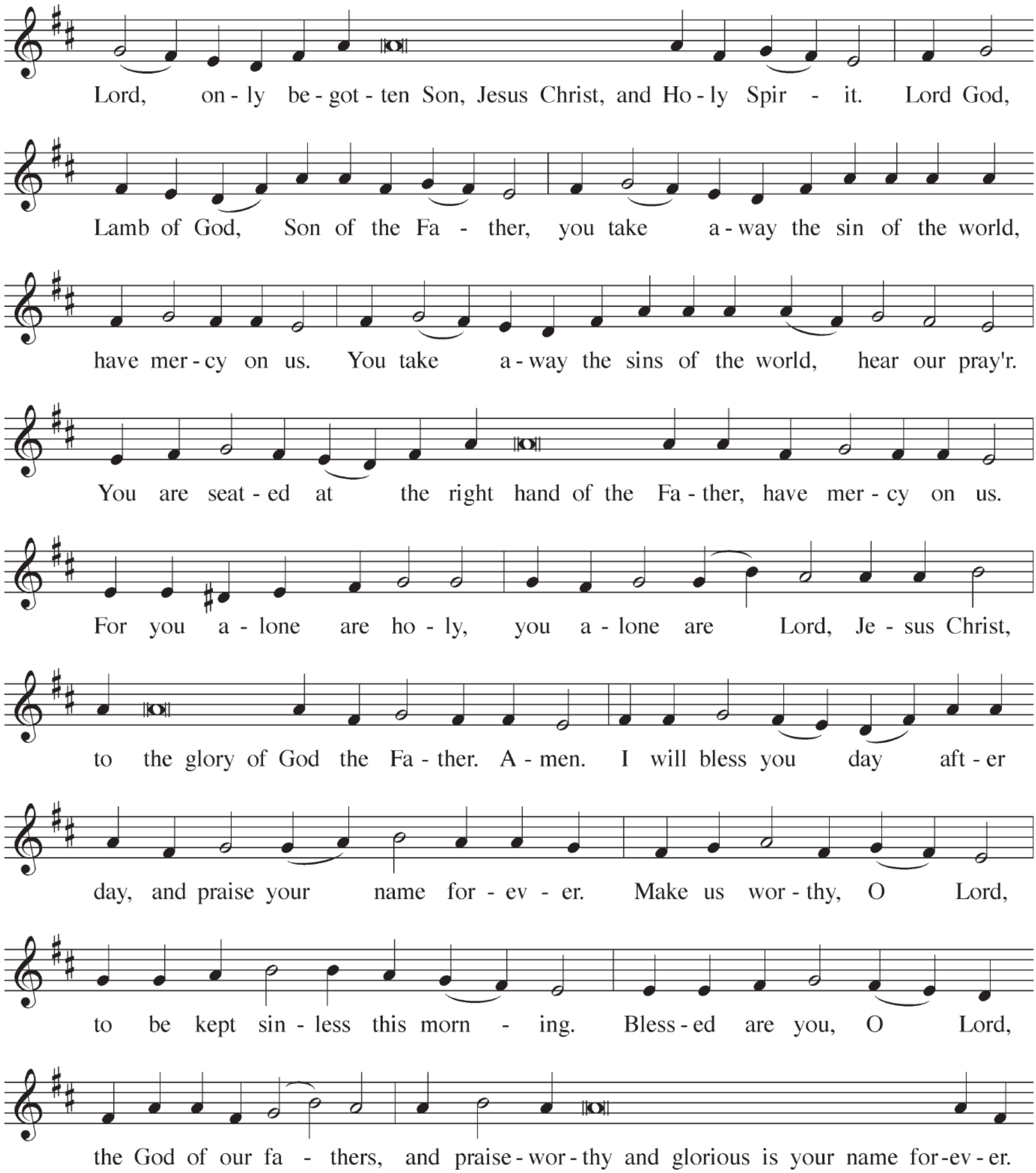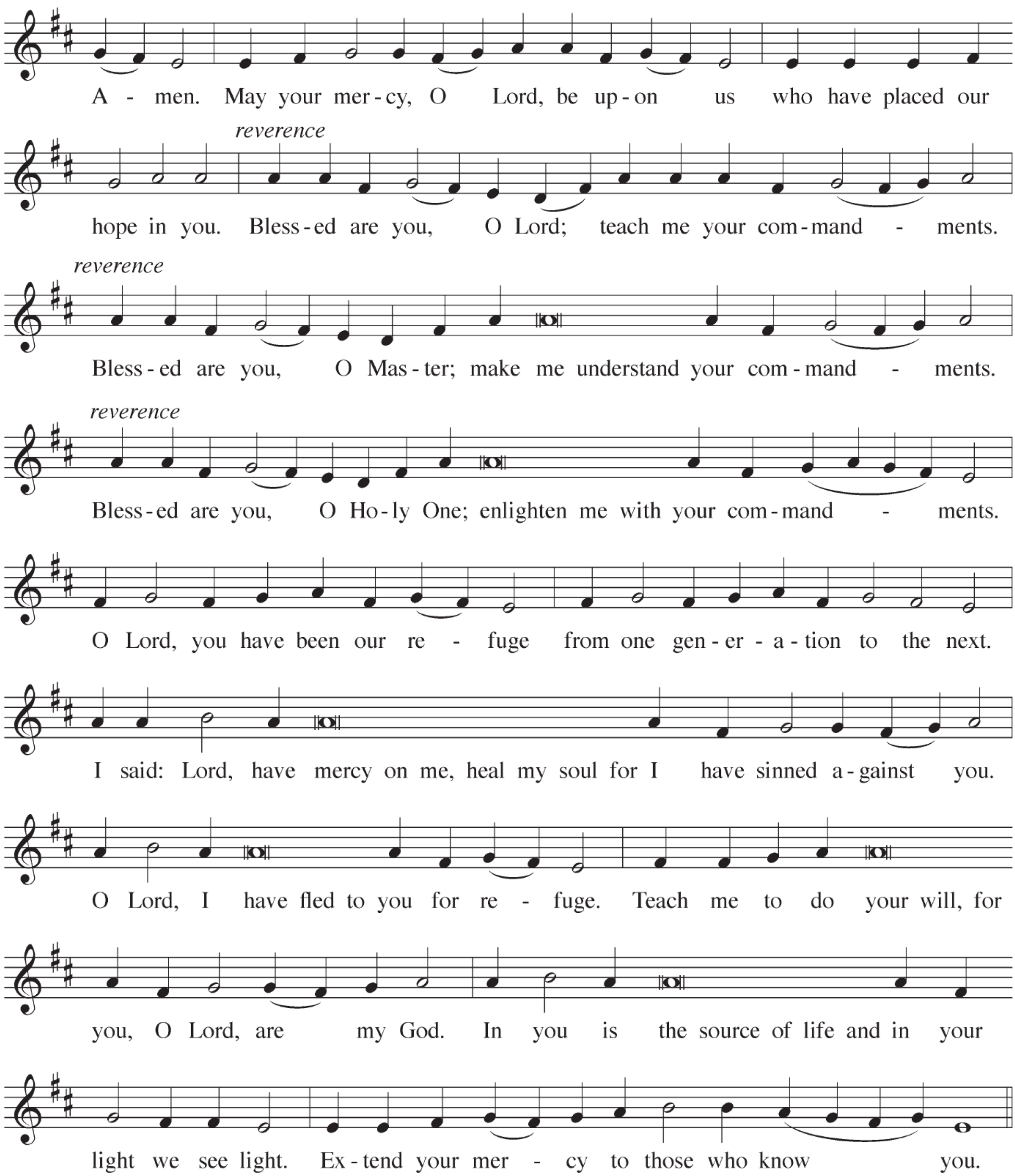





## THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

**Priest:** Glory to you who show us the light!

*And the faithful continue with the Great Doxology. At "Holy God," the priest takes the Gospel Book from the tetrapod and processes with it through the Holy Doors and replaces it on the Holy Table.*

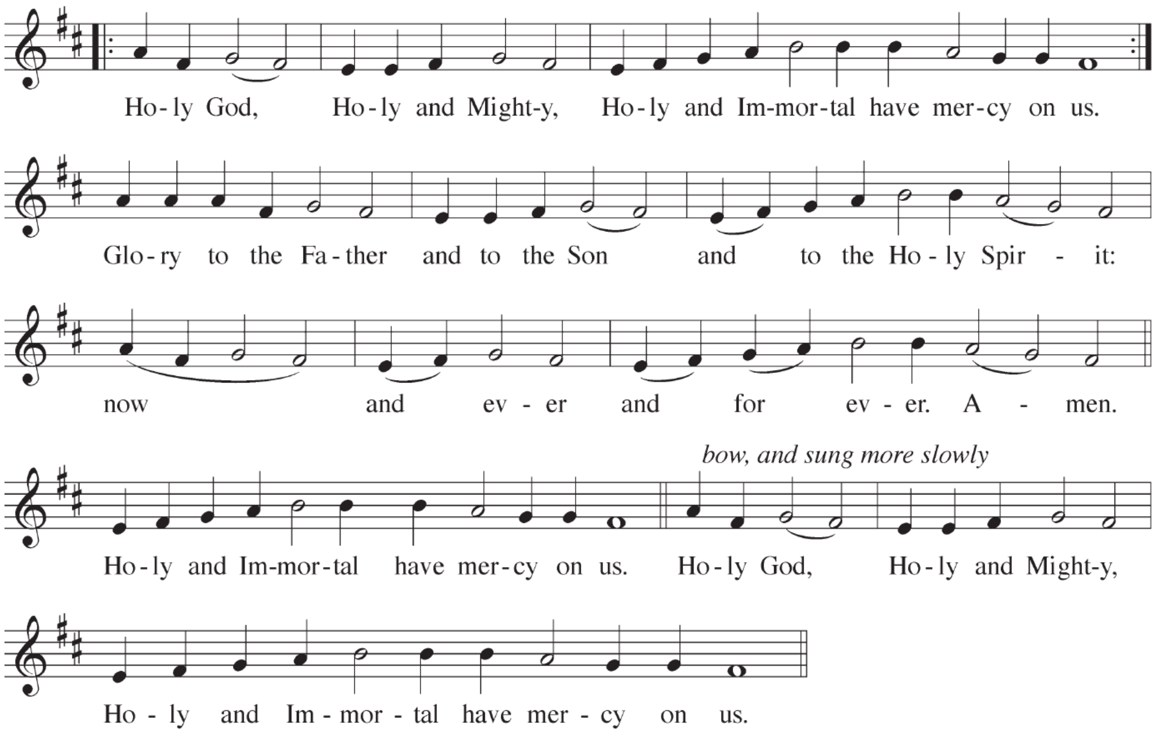



Lord, on - ly be - got - ten Son, Jesus Christ, and Ho - ly Spir - it. Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy on us. You take a - way the sins of the world, hear our pray'r.
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us.
For you a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are Lord, Je - sus Christ,
to the glory of God the Fa - ther. A - men. I will bless you day aft - er
day, and praise your name for - ev - er. Make us wor - thy, O Lord,
to be kept sin - less this morn - ing. Bless - ed are you, O Lord,
the God of our fa - thers, and praise - wor - thy and glorious is your name for - ev - er.

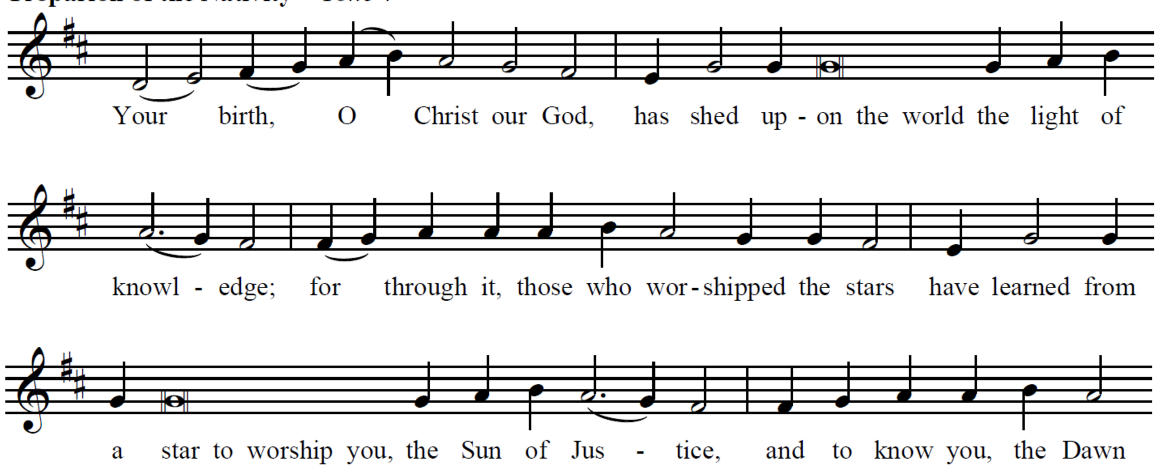

A - men. May your mer-cy, O Lord, be up-on us who have placed our
reverence
hope in you. Bless-ed are you, O Lord; teach me your com-mand - ments.
reverence
Bless-ed are you, O Mas-ter; make me understand your com-mand - ments.
reverence
Bless-ed are you, O Ho-ly One; enlighten me with your com-mand - ments.
O Lord, you have been our re - fuge from one gen-er-a-tion to the next.
I said: Lord, have mercy on me, heal my soul for I have sinned a-gainst you.
O Lord, I have fled to you for re - fuge. Teach me to do your will, for
you, O Lord, are my God. In you is the source of life and in your
light we see light. Ex-tend your mer - cy to those who know you.
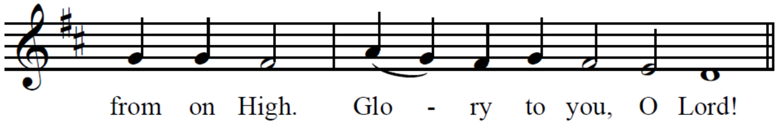
*The priest removes the Gospel book from the tetrapod and processes with it through the Royal Doors and returns it to the Holy Table.*

*Three times, each with a bow:*




**Troparion of the Nativity** - *Tone 4*
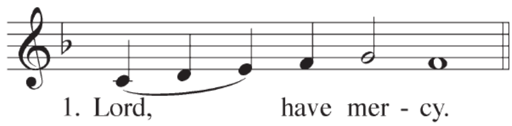





## LITANY OF SUPPLICATION
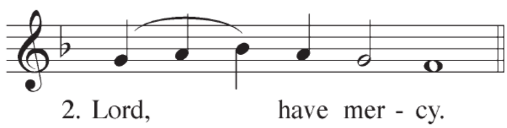
**Deacon:** Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord

**Response:**
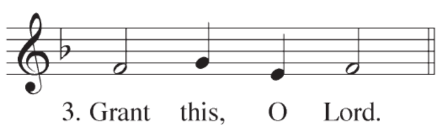



**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:**
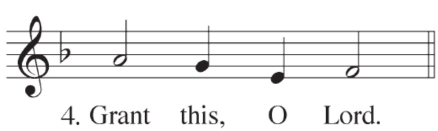



**Deacon:** That this whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:**




**Deacon:** For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:**




**Deacon:** For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (3)

**Deacon:** For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord (4)

**Deacon:** That we spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

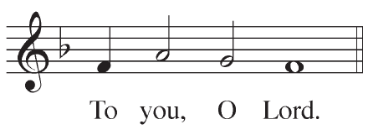
**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (3)

**Deacon:** For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (4)

**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.
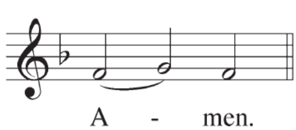
**Response:**




*The priest, standing before the Holy Doors, says:*

**Priest:** We sing to you, we praise you, we bless you, and we thank you, God of our Fathers, for you have banished the dark of night and shown us once again the light of day. We beseech you, forgive our sins and accept our prayer in your great tenderness of heart because we take refuge in you, the merciful and all-powerful God. Shine in our hearts your true Sun of Justice. Enlighten our minds and guard all our senses, so that walking blamelessly in the path of your commandments as in daylight, we may reach eternal life,for in you is the source of life. Make us worthy to enjoy the unapproachable light. For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
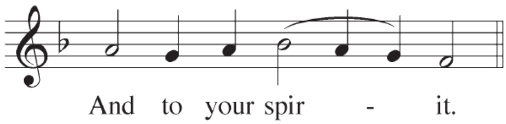
**Response:**



## Prayer over Bowed Heads

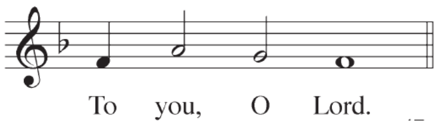
**Priest:** Peace ✣ be to all!

**Response:**
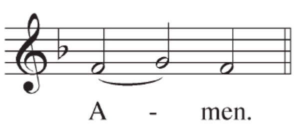



**Deacon:** Bow your heads to the Lord!

**Response:**




**Priest:** Holy Lord, you dwell on high and look upon the lowly, and with your all-seeing eye you watch over all creation. To you we bend our neck in spirit and body and we implore you, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all. If we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily forgive us as a good God who loves mankind and gives us earthly and heavenly gifts. For yours are mercy and salvation, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father and your life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

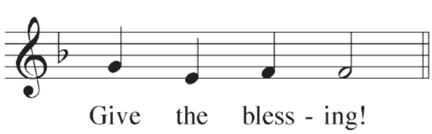
**Response:**




## Dismissal

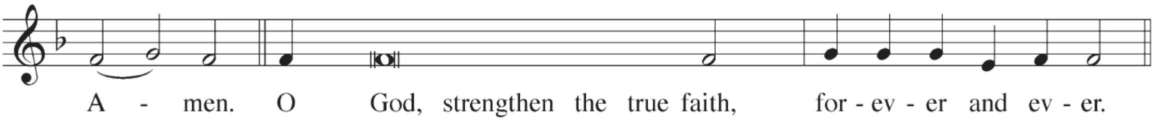
**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Response:**



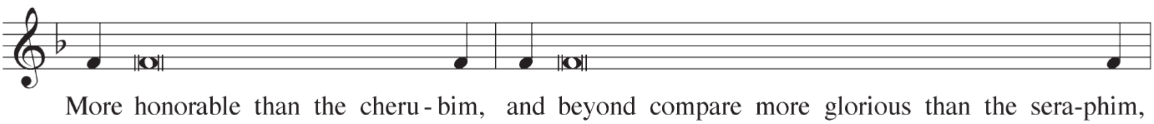

**Priest:** Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

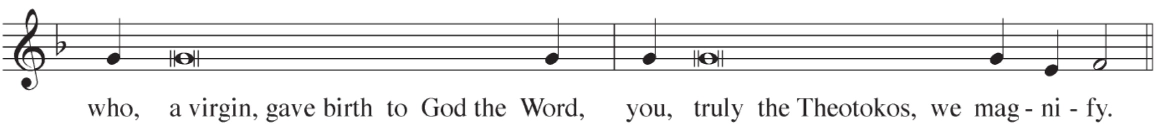
**Response:**




**Priest:** O most holy Theotokos, save us!

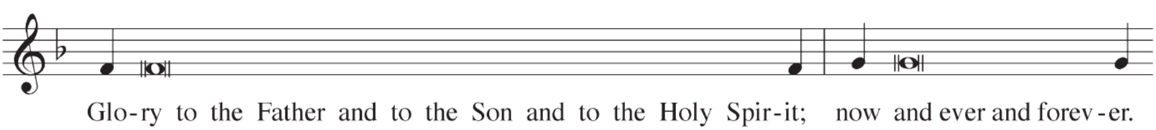
**Response:**

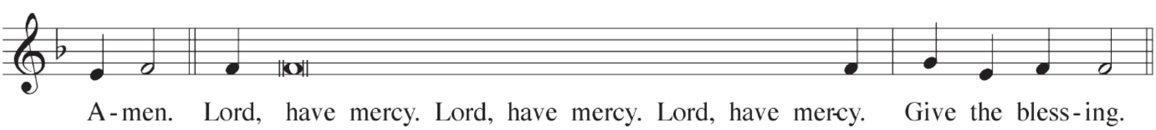



**Priest:** Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!
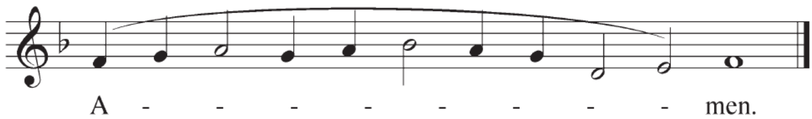
**Response:**




**Priest:** May Christ our true God, who for our salvation deigned to be born in a cave in Bethlehem of Judea and lay in a manager, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother (patron of this church) and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

**Response:**




**The end, and glory to God!**

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